

No. 28 January 7, 1990

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NEWS
MAGAZINE

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\$2.95 USA
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OutWeek

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One small step for a lesbian, one giant step for the Lesbian Nation. See p. 28.
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(l. to r.) Julie Tolentino Wood, Lola Flash, Aner Candelario, Gregg Hubbard.
Photo: Michael Wakefield.

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TAKING ON THE WORLD

From the Silly to the Serious, Some Celebrated Queers Give Good Quoate On the New Decade



JAI JAI NOIRE, S.F. MUSICIAN,
See page 58



SELF-PORTRAIT WITH RITA, 1922
Thomas Hart Benton. See page 57

OUTSPOKEN

It Ain't Necessarily So

The recent ordination of Reverend Robert Williams, an openly gay priest, by Bishop John Shelby Spong of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark should be a cause for celebration not only for Episcopalian gays and lesbians, but for everyone who values justice and compassion. Coming on the heels of the ACT UP and WHAM! civil disobedience at St Patrick's Cathedral, the Episcopal ordination served to underscore the true spirit of Christianity.

The contrast between Bishop Spong's loving stance of support and the rigid hatred and condemnation of Jerry Falwell, Noach Dear and John O'Connor could not be sharper. For gays waging an uphill struggle against religious anti-gay bigotry, Bishop Spong's action is a beacon of hope.

Gays have long labored under the incorrect impression that Judaism and Christianity in and of themselves condemn homosexuality. This fallacy, nurtured for centuries by deliberate mistranslations of biblical texts, has been one of the chief pillars of homophobia.

But starting in the late 1970s, and reaching a peak with the publication of John Boswell's masterful *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* in 1980, the myth of inherent biblical anti-gay bigotry was demolished. Modern historians and religious scholars, accurately and objectively retranslating original biblical texts, have surprisingly shown that the Bible is often merely indifferent toward homosexuality, and frequently tolerant of gays.

The story of Sodom, for example, wasn't mistakenly interpreted as a story about homosexuality until millennia after it was written. Even the proscription in Leviticus that gay sex is an "abomination" occurs in a passage stating that the eating of pork, rabbit and shellfish, the wearing of certain fabrics and even the cutting of the beard and hair are abominations as well. And although he lived in the gay-tolerant Greco-Roman world, Jesus, it need hardly be noted, never mentioned homosexuality at all.

As absurdly archaic as these points may seem to some, they are crucial in separating the otherwise expansive Western religious heritage from the narrowness of homophobic hatred. The discovery of the biblical acceptance of gays opens up a new world of spiritual tolerance in which homophobes like Falwell, Dear and O'Connor are denied the moral cornerstone of their hatred.

Unfortunately, truth often travels slowly in ecclesiastical circles. The work of modern biblical scholars will take time to be absorbed by the more hide-bound traditions of Christianity and Judaism, just as the discovery of evolution or heliocentrism took time to be accepted.

The groundbreaking ordination in New Jersey is a part of that slow but steady process. As the Episcopal Church joins others like the United Church of Christ which have already ordained gays, a fundamental pillar of homophobia crumbles. Actions like Bishop Spong's ensure that future generations of even pious Christians and Jews will look upon homo-hatred with the same sorrow and pity that we look upon witch burning and slavery. ▼

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OutWeek (ISSN 1047-8442) is published weekly (Mondays except the last week of December) by OutWeek Publishing Corporation, 77 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10010 (212) 685-6398. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. Subscriptions \$78 per year.

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LETTERS

Missions Accomplished

First, as one of the organizers of the demonstration at St. Patrick's I want to commend you on the brilliant and on-target "Outspoken" in your last issue, and your accurate and insightful coverage of the events of 10 December 1989. OutWeek has again cut through the bullshit of the straight media to arrive at the real reasons for this demonstration (of course I wouldn't expect less of you). There are several issues concerning the demonstration I would like to address.

Andy Humm is a traitor and is extremely dangerous. Prior to the demonstration, Mr. Humm tried, unsuccessfully, to have a "debate" on his cable show between

members of Dignity and members of WHAMI and ACT UP. He went about trying to invite individuals with radically different opinions in order to have, in his words, "sparks fly." In my opinion, this was a direct attempt to deride the unity and coalition which had been built. In addition, because of the injunction against Dignity and the Cathedral Project, any tape showing cooperation between Dignity and the demonstrators who chose to go inside, could have been used by the authorities to prosecute those people under the injunction with more severe penalties. I believe that Mr. Humm purposely tried to set this up. This also ended our

working relationship with Dignity for the action because of the possible application of the injunction. His quotations in the media were at the



Photo: Lee Snider/Photo Images

least inflammatory and at worst possible catalysts for violence against members of ACT UP and the entire lesbian and gay communities. His statements were often

completely false, like when he stated in a radio interview that he had been a member of ACT UP but left when ACT UP had voted to abandon its non-violent agenda. Can someone please tell me when that vote was taken? Were we all on vacation? Is Mr. Humm trying to incite more police violence against us? Mr. Humm claims to speak for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, a coalition of 100 groups (of which ACT UP is a member). We in the community know that CLGR is really nothing but a ragtag group of a few members who speak for no one but themselves.

I also want to address Dignity and its leader Robert Pusillo. Never have I been more proud of Dignity, than as I read the stories in the papers in the days that followed the demonstration. Bob articulated the reasons for the demon-

©1990
SOTOMAYOR

NO WAY YOU GETTIN' IN
PAL! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD
ABOUT THE WAR ON DRUGS...
AND QUEERS!

U.S. DEPT OF
IMMIGRATION and
NATURALIZATION



stration impeccably and made it clear, while they did not approve of the action inside the cathedral, they supported the reasons for the action inside the cathedral. I salute the brave women and men of the Cathedral Project and Dignity who for almost three years have opposed, through direct action, the hypocritical hierarchy that says all people are "sinners" but some "sinners" don't deserve the support of the church. Dignity is surely a friend in the struggle to stop church interference in our lives.

Our elected officials should be ashamed of themselves. Where was Mario Cuomo's outrage when on October 1st, Cardinal O'Conor proclaimed "I'd like to go out on a rescue" and shut down a women's health clinic. Where was David Dinkins' outrage when the statistics were

released on the increase in teen AIDS cases, an increase caused because there were no condoms in schools, thanks to the archdiocese. And as for Ed Koch, the greatest outrage of all. His reprehensible behavior at the cathedral was the final FUCK YOU to the lesbian and gay community from the genocidal monster himself. Free at last indeed.

In ending I want to reflect on the demonstration. Am I proud of what we did? Absolutely! Never in the recent past have people stood up to the church in such a powerful way. We have stood up to save lives and to allow women to choose by their own morality. We have stood up to say Right to Life is a farce. We have stood up to a church that respects a cluster of cells more than living, breathing human beings. We have sent a message, not only to the reli-

gious community, which is killing us with their fake morality, but also the political community. The message is NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL! Our elected official and evil religious leaders should run scared. We will never be silent. There are no boundaries we will not cross (barring violence). As we move into the second decade of AIDS we will escalate the fight. We will because we must.

Victor Mendolia
ACT UP

Freedom From Religion

I am disappointed but not surprised at the editorials of the major N.Y. daily newspapers condemning ACT UP and WHAM!'s protest at St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday as being sacrilegious and disgraceful behavior.

What is indeed sacrilegious and a disgrace is the

fact that tens of thousands of young men and women who have died and are dying horrible deaths while in the prime of their lives for the past ten years and this society just plain doesn't give a damn! And that especially includes the religious community, our so called moral leaders. It's because this materialistic society has absolutely no sanctity for life whatsoever but only a reverence for money and power that this sad state of affairs has come to being. AIDS is still largely perceived as being a gay disease and since homosexuals are considered "intrinsically evil" by the churches we are simply an expendable segment of the population.

I say it's too bad that Cardinal O'Connor had his feathers ruffled because we disrupted his sermon of hate and bigotry last Sunday. It was long overdue! And if he's offended by our actions Sunday, we are offended by his spearheading the church's campaign of condemnation of our very existence! Who is Cardinal O'Connor and the Catholic Church to judge anyone with their bloody 2,000 year history of violent repression, censorship, bigotry, hypocrisy, racism, torture and murder? (One historian calculated over 100 million human beings met with violent deaths directly because of this church over the centuries—the 400-year Inquisition, the Crusades, the burning of witches, etc., etc.) The Catholic Church was the single biggest obstacle to the development of scientific knowledge in the history of western civilization, a tradition it continues in the subject of sexuality. It has effectively reduced its membership to the status of superstitious, primitive savages. How dare this vile institution preach morality to anyone with the incredible amount of human suffering that can be laid at its doorstep? How many unwanted

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



I LEFT THE
WHOLE MESS I LEFT
KATRINA. I LEFT
DURHAM LAST WEEK.
I SAID, JANET BABY,
YOU'VE GOT TO
MOVE TO A BIG
CITY WHERE NO ONE
KNOWS A SINGLE
THING ABOUT YOU-

THAT WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO BE
KATRINA ROBINS
OF DURHAM WOULD
IT? YOU'RE NOT
JANET LIEBERMAN
ARE YOU?

ed, unloved and economically-deprived children have been born into this world because of the church's idiotic stand on birth control and abortion? Wherever you find the Catholic Church entrenched you'll find ignorance and poverty in the surrounding communities. The first amendment provides for the separation of church and state as the foundation of our democracy. The Catholic Church makes a mockery of this provision—despite the generous tax exempt status it enjoys upon its prolific wealth—which we as taxpayers are subsidizing.

The media laments about how we attacked freedom of religion—I'm much more concerned with freedom FROM religion. It has consistently intruded its morbid and guilt-ridden moral teachings in our lives because it enjoys so much power in influencing the public, our politicians and the media. Where were the editorials of outrage when O'Connor publicly stated that he wanted to get arrested with Operation Rescue, an organization that violates the law by blocking entrances to abortion clinics thus interfering with women's health care, not to mention the violent verbal abuse these women are subjected to by these fanatics. What about the 30-plus abortion clinics that were bombed because of the hate campaign engineered by the church? We have the right to prevent this monstrous organization from continuing to interfere with our lives. Demagogues like O'Connor have made substantial contributions to creating an atmosphere of intolerance and hatred toward gays in general and therefore the resulting "we-don't care" attitude of society towards people dying of AIDS. We lost sympathy by this demonstration? We never had any sympathy by society at any

time. We still have to buy drugs from the underground to help prolong our lives because the federal government, the NIH, the FDA and the pharmaceutical companies select drug testing based upon profit potential, not saving human lives. What should we do? Throw flowers at the church and thank them for persecuting us so thoroughly for 2,000 years? For once we stood up to the church and now it hides behind its robes and rituals and feigns injury.

Peaceful demonstrations are lost against our oppressors. The only real gains we have enjoyed have come from less than polite confrontations as we enter the second decade of the AIDS genocide. If nothing else, we communicated our outrage at society's indifference to this epidemic by going into a very major source of hatred and ignorance against gays—the church. As far as I'm concerned, disrupting a Catholic

mass is like disrupting a Nazi rally. Their stupidity and sorness has killed and is continuing to kill our community. O'Connor served on the President's Commission on AIDS for a full year. He knows what's going on. He commands the media like no one I know. Has he ever spoken out once on the criminal lack of testing of drugs for AIDS? No, he hasn't! But he incessantly rambled on about how gays are moral degenerates (even though homosexuality is rampant among the church's clergy). The Catholic Church doesn't show any respect towards us as human beings—why shouldn't we return the favor, as we did last Sunday? When their policies and dogma result in gay



Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

and straight people dying, then we should continue to disrupt their organization—whatever form it takes.

According to Christian mythology, Jesus Christ walked into the temple of God with a whip and drove the money-changers out! I think we did something comparable last Sunday when we entered and protested at the cathedral. ACT UP is becoming

Blurt Out

RHAPSODY IN BLUE...

The *New York Times*' Arts & Leisure section really is an old curiosity shop of commentary. Witness California-based freelancer Paul Chutkow's December 17th piece on "The Private War of Tom Cruise": "The first time you meet Tom Cruise, in his jeans and his leather jacket, your first instinct is to think: Huh? How could a kid seemingly so young and so green have come so far so fast? In his climbing shoes and his gray athletic T-shirt, he looks like he's done a permanent freeze into a Reebok caricature of the All-American Boy. Everything about him is boyish and eager...And that face. Unblemished. Uncut. Cocksure. How can this be?"

FEEL LIKE BREAKING UP SOMEBODY'S HOME...

The press seems unusually determined to expose any cracks in the amiable axis forged betwixt Madonna C. and Sandra B. December 12 saw two such nasty barbs. The first, appearing in that paragon of journalistic integrity *The Star*, asked eager Stargazers to imagine Warren Beatty querying, "What do I have to do to get this girl alone?", while Madonna, like a virgin, stares at Sandy. New York's *Daily News*, whose pursuit of the truth burns through its every column with gem-like intensity, alleged that a loud and persistent Bernhard called out to Ciccone and Beatty across a restaurant insisting that they join her table of "rowdy" women. The *News* was thrilled to confirm that reluctant diner Beatty picked up the bill. And so, the old order is consolidated and happy heteros everywhere breathe a sigh of relief that this ugly chapter is drawing to a close.

—Sarah Pettit

ing increasingly isolated from society as our voices grow louder and our tactics escalate in intensity. But there can be no doubt of the righteousness of our cause. I'm proud of ACT UP's involvement at St. Patrick's and I salute the courageous activists that got arrested there that day. We will not die quietly!

Tom Shultz
Brooklyn

No Regrets

I just finished reading some of the coverage in your December 24 issue. As always I am impressed with your ability to report a story from so many different aspects, accurately reporting conflicting views of controversial subjects.

That said, I feel it appropriate to throw in some comments to the controversy around the ACT UP/WHAM! protest at St. Patrick's.

Let's face it: the Catholic

Church hates us. They actively would prefer if we were not around. They and all other Christian sects have proved this over a period of nearly



Photo: Lee Snider/Photo Images

2,000 years. And the Jewish religion has hated us for 5,000 years. (Alas the Muslims run behind with only 1,400 years of homo hating and faggot genocide under their belts.)

I can respect that there are those among us who chose to pick and choose what of these religions they can follow, and stress instead all that love, peace and brotherhood stuff; ignoring those explicit calls for our murder in their religious books and overlooking centuries of brutality that makes AIDS look like a picnic. But Cardinal O'Connor is not one of these. His words mean our death. His active intervention in the affairs of state offer us no choice but our active opposition. I applaud the demonstration inside of St. Patrick's by whatever portions of ACT UP might have been involved. Those who got arrested are our heroes. We've had enough martyrs.

We've also had enough back-stabbing Uncle Toms. Andy Humm has been running around pretending to represent 50 organizations for years.

Now he's run to the homo-hating daily rags to present himself as a spokesperson for the "good" gays. Andy Humm should examine the fact that he has received something no other gay "leader" has ever gotten—positive coverage in the New York Post. The rest of us should examine that too. In my book that makes Andy Humm a collaborator—and in the worst sense of the word. It's high time the rest of us make it known that we have nothing to be ashamed of. Nothing to be forgiven for. No sins, no repentance and no respect for an institution that quite literally drips with our blood.

Ian Daniels Horst
Brooklyn

Stop ACT UP

On December 9, I received a phone call from an ACT UPer reminding me of the "Stop the Church"



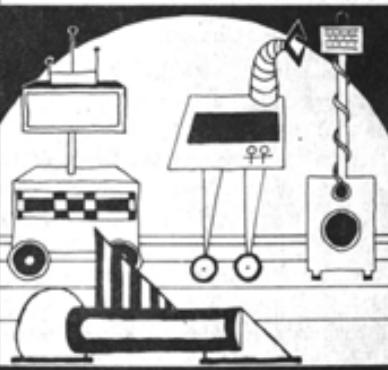
DRAG QUEENS
WHO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT
SECRETLY WEARING BOXER
SHORTS UNDER THEIR DRESSES



FIVE PEOPLE WHO NEVER
GOT IT UP THE ASS
WITH A BROOMSTICK

TALK SHOW GUESTS IN SEARCH OF A HOST

CAMPER



LESBIAN ROBOTS



PEOPLE WHO WAIT UNTIL
AFTER THEY GET OUT OF
THE SHOWER TO PEE



WOMEN SHARING RECIPES OF
THE EXCITING & TASTY
DISHES THEY'VE INVENTED
AFTER MURDERING THEIR STUPID
HUSBANDS AND PUTTING THEM
IN THE BLENDER

demonstration held at St. Patrick's the following day. I have had extremely ambivalent feelings about ACT UP over the past few years.

Last October I attended the Liberal Party dinner and witnessed their deliberate provocation of Rudy Giuliani. I saw the feigned injury and hysterics of the demonstrator who refused to leave the hall. I suspect the injuries allegedly caused by Roger Ailes are exaggerated. I wouldn't know. This insult was hurled at a man who, for weeks, had an extensive position paper on AIDS, ten pages in depth, covering every aspect of the city's response to this tragedy. Included in the paper were creative methods to finance the city's services for HIVs and PWAs. His opponent, to my knowledge, did not have such a paper despite the fact only two weeks remained to the campaign and he had received blind support from many of us. ACT UP left him alone.

Since I felt the planned "Stop the Church" demonstration to be pointless and since I have seen plain unchristian hatred directed at O'Connor, I told the Saturday caller I would not participate.

Sunday's antics should be the last straw! True, O'Connor is no friend of ours. He's authoritarian, rigid and remote. Yet as a Christian, I believe he deserves to be treated in the same way we demand to be treated—with respect and dignity. I also believe that a church service should never be a place to vent hatred. To see unbalanced miscreants ridicule the faithful's beliefs, mock the churchgoers feelings and desecrate the most sacred element of Catholic worship—a consecrated host—is sickening and repulsive. I resent their being portrayed as "gay and lesbian" to the larger NYC community. That's a category about which I have worked hard to

feel pride and dignity. I don't like seeing despicable idiots like Sunday's demonstrators placed in the same category. So intense are my feelings about this incident, that I'm chagrined to find myself agreeing with much of homophobic Ray Kerrison's *New York Post* column of Monday, December 11th.

The Community Center recently showed integrity and backbone in refusing space to a NAMBLA-sponsored event. Many times before Sunday's offenses, the Center provided space to the demonstrators to organize and plan their conduct. The Board of Directors needs to know that many of us will reconsider keeping a paid

membership in such an organization if it continues to facilitate hatred, malice and eventually violence. Government funding, of course, may likely be jeopardized as well.

Michael Flynn
Brooklyn

Ban ACT UP

I deplore the actions inside of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The desecration of the host during communion was a real offense to God.

It is one thing to attack O'Connor and another thing to attack Jesus Christ!

ACT UP is responsible and they should try to undo the damage to the gay community.

The gay community

center should rethink letting ACT UP have meetings there.

Bob Johnston
Manhattan

Drawing the Line

Your argument in favor of NAMBLA's use of the Community Center for a poetry reading is seriously flawed. We do not have a responsibility to support the activities of all groups representing different factions of our community. And the Center is correct in weighing the needs of a small group within our community against the needs of our community as a whole.

What if an organization called North American

Nightmare of the Week

Father Bruce on personal hygiene: "Another kid noticed my prayer book under my arm. 'You've got your Bible,' he announced. He was one of half a dozen kids standing around in their jockey shorts waiting to iron their pants. They wait patiently, standing around in their jockey shorts, or with a towel wrapped around their waist, for their turn at the ironing board."

Father Bruce on hustling: "I drove up and down Santa Monica Boulevard—the most notorious meat rack in the country—half a dozen times. I could have picked up at least 50 kids. I stopped for a red light on the corner of La Brea and Santa Monica. A kid was sprawled on a bench there, facing the oncoming traffic. His left leg was thrown casually over the back of the bench. I wondered what he saw in my face. Did he think I was condemning him for trying to pick me up? Or maybe, something else? Did he see concern? Did he suspect that I cared? Did he know that I liked him?"

For more hot action, pick up Father Bruce Ritter's fabulous book. It's called Sometimes God Has A Kid's Face, and sister ain't lying about that. (By the way, the best parts are on pages 27, 34, 79, 93, 112, and 116.)

Man/Infant Love Association, where members had sexual relations with male infants, called for us to recognize its right to exist? Or how about an organization advocating sex between men and retarded boys? According to your argument, we should provide our support for such organizations as well.

The question is, where do we draw the line? As a community, we also have a responsibility to our common goals. We need not behave in ways that lawmakers and others would force us to behave, simply because they say so. But we should show that gay sexual relations are based in the same awareness and natural desires as heterosexual relations. The foundation of our position is that we comprehend our own decisions to be gay and have gay sex. Any claim that young boys or girls can make and comprehend such a decision is dubious.

In addition, NAMBLA should recognize the damage it does to our community when its activities and opinions are assumed (incorrectly) to be endorsed by the gay community. NAMBLA puts its own agenda ahead of the efforts of our community as a whole, and should realize that many of us resent it and applaud the Community Center's decision.

To say that sexual relations between adults and children does not exist is obviously faulty. But to support an activity or opinion simply BECAUSE many consider it illegal and immoral is not solidarity, it is lunacy.

Bill Berry

Out Front

In response to Sandor Katz' commentary ("Insulation, Window-Dressing and Turning Up the Heat," *OutWeek*, December 3), we wish to outline a few reasons why an office for the lesbian and gay community is vital to the

representation of our issues within government.

It is a testimony to the effectiveness of community activism that this office was established in March, and it is a credit to the mayor that he instituted it. Some say there is no need for this office, or for that matter any office addressing a "special interest group," because true integration of openly gay and lesbian people in city government will address our issues in all contexts. But given the history of exclusion our community has experienced (e.g. the NYC Gay Rights Law is not yet five years old), the need for intergovernmental advocacy and responsiveness is apparent.

The issue here is not only one of presence but also one of participation. How often can an openly gay Assistant Commissioner of Sanitation or a lesbian Public Information Officer for the Office of Management and Budget advance issues of particular concern to our community? Just because an executive assistant in the Health and Hospitals Corporation is gay doesn't mean that he will be able or willing to assist your organization in applying for a city service contract, or for that matter lobbying for more hospital beds for PWAs or improved services for the HIV-III.

We need people who are responsible to the community, with access to government officials at all levels (the director of the Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community is also an assistant to the mayor) to be specifically employed to address community issues—in policy meetings, on task forces, at conferences, in the media and on the streets.

Since March, this office has accomplished much to address some of our community's many needs. For example, we assisted with a meeting at Gracie Mansion between the mayor and

community representatives (including ACT UP and the PWA Coalition) to discuss the issues of contact-tracing and improved early intervention treatments for the HIV-III; we took the initiative to produce lesson plans addressing lesbian and gay history and culture and continue to lobby for their inclusion in the city's multicultural education plan; we were instrumental in the issuance of Executive Order 123 establishing a registration process for domestic partners and providing for bereavement leave benefits. Our office staff attends community meetings and forums as participants and listeners to keep informed and to inform in return—we are outside St. Patrick's Cathedral and inside the Community Center, we read the Native and write letters to *OutWeek*, some of us have lovers, and all of us have friends with AIDS—we are not fooled by tokenism but are conditioned by realism.

To learn more about the Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community call for our newsletter, *Outfront*—(212) 566-7385—or write: Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community, 52 Chambers Street, Room 311, New York, NY 10007. We value your opinions and encourage you to call or write.

Jan Carl Park
Assistant Director
Office for the Lesbian
and Gay Community
Manhattan

Where's Pat?

OutWeek's "Nightmares" lists were fun to read but why didn't you include New York's Senior Senator, Daniel Patrick Moynihan? Sure they guy votes right, lends his name to AIDS and lesbian and gay causes and even was the honored speaker at a Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner. Big

deal! Where is his leadership in loudly and publicly denouncing gay bashing and the government's half-hearted efforts in fighting the AIDS epidemic?

Other sacred cows who need to be exposed are New York Times columnists Anthony Lewis and Tom Wicker. While they write eloquently and passionately about such issues as the homeless and apartheid they are murderously silent about AIDS. I nominate them for *OutWeek's* next "Nightmares" listing.

Hal Bramson
Manhattan

Bitter Over Ritter

As a former teenaged street prostitute, I'm happy to see the scandal come out about Father Bruce Ritter and his Covenant House. They are the biggest pimps in the city as they rake in millions of dollars using prostitutes. The price that gay and lesbian youth are charged for shelter amounts to control by the Catholic Church with its warped morality. Were it not for the teachings of this church, so many would not have to leave home to begin with.

Gay youth does not need sexual guidance from self-professed virgins who are often anything but virgins! I'm glad that I worked as a prostitute: it brought me money and a chance to work in an all gay environment. Problems surrounding prostitution result from its illegality not from anything intrinsic about rental sex.

ACT UP and WHAM! did sexual liberation a great service by taking a demonstration inside St. Patrick's. Let the Catholic Church be warned: we are answering all attacks on our lives and liberties. A bunch of self-hating pedophile men in drag will not be making the laws for gay men and women!

Robert Chakassi
Manhattan

XEROXED

ACT DOWN

ACT UP/New York

Brothers and sisters:

I write to you today to express my profound disagreement with the behavior of ACT UP and its allies at the demonstration at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, December 10. I am convinced that as a result of your actions safe sex education and practice will be dealt a severe setback.

I write to you as a gay man who, as a proudly lapsed Catholic and long-time secular humanist, has very little good will toward the Roman Catholic hierarchy or Cardinal O'Connor in particular. But I also write as a person who through long years of political activity has become convinced of the need for patient, long-term coalition-building as the *sine qua non* of progressive social transformation.

I am convinced that your actions last Sunday reflected considerable anti-Catholic prejudice. The desecration of the Eucharist by those of your members who were inside the cathedral is the most dramatic example of this attitude. You may not believe that the Eucharist is the body of Christ, and I don't believe the Eucharist is the body of Christ, but practicing Catholics obviously do believe the Eucharist is the body of Christ—and if you desecrate the communion host you display tremendous contempt for those believers—and you write them off as potential political allies.

This is foolish, because practicing Catholics in the United States have a demonstrated track record of ignoring the church hierarchy—especially on issues related to sexuality—when they are con-

vinced the hierarchs are wrong. Most Catholic heterosexual couples practice birth control, the Pope's admonitions notwithstanding. Many, perhaps most Catholic elected officials, follow Governor Cuomo's lead in distinguishing between the church's position on abortion and what makes good sense as public policy in a pluralistic society.

There is another area in which your anti-Catholicism is evident: the presence of men in nun drag at the demonstration. While much drag celebrates women or subverts gender categories, there is a sub-category of drag which belittles or demeans women. Nun drag, *a la* the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, increasingly falls into this category.

Nun drag demeans what is today the single most progressive bloc within the Catholic Church. Religious communities of women have been key actors within liberation struggles in Central and South America. A nun today is as likely to be running a shelter for homeless women or a drop-in center for street prostitutes as she is to be teaching parochial school. There is something peculiarly sexist about gay men who feel the need to travesty a group of women who have consciously chosen to live their lives in communities of women. And to show up in nun drag at a demonstration at the cathedral shows that you're not really interested in communicating with practicing Catholics; you only wish to display your contempt for them—and once again this writes them off as potential political allies.

I harp on this point because, given the church's secular power and O'Con-

nor's political skills, only a protracted process of coalition-building among communities with otherwise diverse interests and agendas will achieve success. The church's power is strong enough that it is not now capable of being defeated by frontal assault—and a frontal assault is what Sunday's demonstration attempted to be. The church's anti-condom, anti-sex education position will only be defeated

by a strategy of subversion or outflanking: subversion in the sense that Catholic lay people and low level clergy will eventually be persuaded of the foolishness of the church's official position and will act accordingly (as they do with respect to birth control); outflanking in the sense that other religious and secular institutions will eventually be persuaded of the need to criticize the Catholic Church's position and to prevent it from adversely affecting public policy. ACT UP should be able to understand outflanking: you've repeatedly used it with success on the issue of mandatory testing.

But while this coalition-building is desirable, even necessary, I sincerely doubt whether ACT UP, in the wake of Sunday's demonstration, will be able to find many coalition partners. The question is: How sensitive is ACT UP to people of different lifestyles and subcultures?

Jewish congregations, for example, will ask: How different is the desecration of the Eucharist from the desecration of synagogues? African-American communities may ask: If ACT UP, an overwhelmingly white organization, disrespects white churchgoers, what are they likely to do in Black churches, which are not only



Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

religious institutions but major conduits of political organization within the community? A progressive union such as Local 1199 may ask: Why should we ally with ACT UP to denounce O'Connor when the contract we signed with the Catholic hospitals he controls was the key to winning a breakthrough contract with all hospitals?

I fear that in the future ACT UP will only be able to find allies among those who share its overwhelming commitment to what, for lack of a better term, may be described as sexual radicalism. This would be highly unfortunate, because ACT UP's achievements, particularly with regard to AIDS treatment issues and to goading government bureaucracies, are tremendous lessons for all political organizers.

ACT UP must decide which it wants to be: a movement of AIDS militants, or the vanguard of gay sexual liberation. It can be either some of the time, but it cannot be both all of the time.

ACT UP must decide which is more important: venting its rage against sexual reactionaries, or building the coalition that will defeat AIDS and transform the politics of health care in this country.

James E. Keenan
Brooklyn

Times Blasted for AIDS "Cure" Report

Coverage Criticized By Feds, Doctors and Activists



Photo: Jim Marks

ACCURACY UNKNOWN

Dr. Anthony Fauci

by Gabriel Rotello

NEW YORK—When *The New York Times* reported Dec. 19 that doctors at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine had completely eliminated HIV from the body of an AIDS patient in an experimental bone marrow operation, the front-page story sent a whirlwind of hope and recriminations through the AIDS community.

Although the patient subsequently died of AIDS related lymphoma, the article, by AIDS-beat reporter Gina Kolata, marked the first time that scientists had made such a sweeping claim about eliminating HIV from a living patient and effecting a "cure" for AIDS.

But many in the AIDS community immediately raised questions about the report's techniques, urged caution in evaluating its data and criticized

the *Times* for sensational and misleading reporting. And in a article the following day in the *Washington Post*, NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci characterized the *Times* report as "blown out of proportion" and stated that, "To in any way construe this as having cured this patient of HIV infection is

not warranted by the data." The *Times* itself ran another article on Dec. 21, also by Kolata, reporting Fauci's objections and more or less recanting much of its original story.

Cure or Lure?

The original *Times* article, which ran under the headline "Physicians rid a man's body of AIDS virus in experiment" reported on a paper appearing in the December issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. In that paper, scientists from Johns Hopkins describe the experimental treatment of a 41-year-old man who had AIDS and an advanced lymphoma.

According to the *Times* article, the scientists removed the man's entire bone marrow through a combination of radiation and chemotherapy. Bone marrow produces the body's

immune system cells, which become infected and impaired in people with AIDS.

The scientists attempted to destroy the man's entire immune system, and thus his HIV infection, replacing it with healthy bone marrow transplanted from a donor. This new bone marrow would then produce a new immune system free from HIV. During the procedure, the patient was suffused with high dosage AZT, to prevent any lingering HIV from reinfecting his cells.

According to the scientists, the transplanted bone marrow grew to replace the man's old marrow. He continued to show lingering signs of HIV infection for 32 days, but after that all HIV tests were negative. The man died 47 days after the operation, reportedly from the lymphoma, which remained uncured by the procedure.

Following his death, scientists conducted an extensive autopsy to search for remaining HIV, but reportedly found none. They employed a technique called polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which can detect viral genes, in examining his brain, heart, lungs, liver, spleen, kidneys, intestines, lymph nodes and tumor.

"Within the Limits" or Out of Bounds?

The *Times* article was careful to mention that the HIV had been eliminated "within the limits of detection." And NIAID's Fauci told the *Washington Post* that "the accuracy of PCR for detecting the virus in the tissues of AIDS patients after death is not known. It's a big, big gap in this study."

Dr. Bernard Bihari, the executive director of New York's Community Research Initiative, called the report naive. "We don't know how PCR

works even in living tissue, so claiming HIV was eliminated based on a PCR done after death, that's a big claim to make," he told *OutWeek*.

Mark Harrington, of ACT UP's Treatment and Data Committee, concurred, saying "It's hard to believe the procedure got rid of every HIV cell."

Others, however, were intrigued by the scientists' claims. Jim Eigo, also of ACT UP, called the technology "a promising matter to explore." And Gina Kolata, in a telephone interview, expressed concern that the AIDS activist community was discounting the story simply because she had written it for the *Times*. "I first heard of this story from an ACT UP member," Kolata told *OutWeek*. "It's a treatment that AIDS activists had been calling for. There's a funny reaction that when it finally shows up on page one of the *New York Times*, people say that it's no good, that it's stupid."

Headlines and Deadlines

Nonetheless, many in the AIDS community who have previously blasted the paper for what they called its inattention to the epidemic criticized the *Times* for raising false hope about an extremely tentative and unproven experiment.

Doctors and members of AIDS service organizations were particularly critical of the headlines accompanying the story, which included one stating "Doctors eradicate AIDS in patient." Dr. Bihari called such headlines, "Ethically highly questionable" and "irresponsible."

Derek Hodel of the PWA Health Group said, "I question those headlines, and why it's a front page story at all. We suffer from these articles because the front page of the *Times* has intense political ramifications."

Dr. Gabriel Torres, a medical consultant with the Gay Men's Health Crisis said, "My main problems were the headlines, and the fact that relevance of the story to the community is not really addressed."

As a rule, it is editors, rather than reporters, who write headlines for the *Times*.

Assuming that there may eventually

be some therapeutic benefit for at least some patients, the transplant procedure nevertheless costs between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per patient, according to Torres, who said the government provides no funding for patients seeking this form of therapy. "We at GMHC heard about this a while back," Dr. Torres said. "We investigated to see if one of our clients would be eligible. But there are no agencies who provide funding for this, insurance companies won't fund it, and the cost is exorbitant."

In addition to these hurdles, Torres pointed out that access to "marrow banks" is extremely limited even for those few patients, mostly people with leukemia, who presently could benefit from such a procedure. Many leukemia patients die while awaiting a marrow donor, according to Torres.

ACT UP's Eigo noted that finding a suitable marrow donor is easier when fetal tissue can be used. However, he pointed out that the Bush Administration's recent ban on the use of fetal tissue obtained through abortions would complicate research in this area. "It's a shame that we would be proscribed in this area because fetal tissue was unavailable," Eigo said. "It raises enormous social problems."

About 25 percent of bone marrow recipients die from the procedure itself, according to the *Times* article, adding another obstacle to widespread use of this therapy. Those along with the fundamental unanswered question of whether it even worked in this first experiment, raised questions of why the word "cure" appeared prominently in the *Times* article.

"I never said the man was cured," reporter Kolata told *OutWeek*. "I went nuts pointing out that the guy died. No one wants to raise false hopes. But I disagree when people say we were giving false hope to people with AIDS. I'm not an ACT UP member. I don't say to myself, 'What would ACT UP say' every time I write a story. But they don't understand how a story is written." Kolata added that she had been unable to reach Fauci for comment by press time. ▼

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B·O·S·T·O·N

ACT UP/Boston Slams HIV Test Stance of Major AIDS Group

by Masha Gessen

BOSTON—In a rare public display of discord within the community, ACT UP/Boston staged a day-long protest at the offices of the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. At issue, activists said, was the AIDS-service organization's lack of a policy encouraging voluntary HIV testing.

The successful use of aerosolized pentamidine to prevent pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, the leading cause of death among people with AIDS, has prompted many AIDS organizations to

renounce their neutral stands of HIV testing in favor of pro-active policies. Other groups followed suit last summer, when the government publicized the putatively impressive results of a study of AZT in asymptomatic HIV-positives. AZT is currently the only government-approved treatment for HIV-infection.

Among institutions that have taken a stand in favor of voluntary testing and early-intervention treatment are the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis and even

the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

But AAC Executive Director Larry Kessler stressed that his organization is not "against testing." Rather, said Kessler, the AAC board feels that "people who consider themselves at risk, and feel that they should be tested, should be tested at an anonymous testing site with counseling."

But ACT UP/Boston members criti-

cized this philosophy, arguing that the AAC should actively use its resources and influence to encourage people at risk for HIV infection to be tested. "Early testing saves lives—period!" proclaimed one of the placards at the protest, while another charged that the AAC "fails the HIV test."

Timing is Everything

Even participants in the ACT UP protest acknowledged that members of the AAC staff had indicated that the organization was preparing to change its policy. Kessler confirmed that the AAC board is "committed to making a statement in January," that will herald a change in policy. But ACT UP members still decried the service organization's lack of urgency in taking what other groups have seen as a critical step.

"We are confident that they're going to come out with a policy, but they're taking longer than the *Department of Public Health*!" exclaimed Ed Boyce, one of the protesters.

"Their bureaucracy interferes," added John LaBella, an ACT UP/Boston member who also serves as an AAC "buddy." "It's sad that they would come out with a policy the same time or later than a state agency."

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced in November that it would launch a campaign to encourage widespread voluntary HIV testing. Within weeks, however, the state health commissioner told the *Boston Globe* that he had decided to delay the campaign for at least a month, because Kessler and AAC board members had "pledged for more time" to prepare the organization for the onslaught of new clients.

The head of the state AIDS planning office explained that AAC representatives "were afraid they would get swamped."

And an article in an AAC newsletter distributed to staff members and volunteers



TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST?
AAC's Larry Kessler at an AIDS rally last April

Photo: Masha Gessen

also warned that a campaign encouraging testing would create increased demand for AAC services. "A kind of service gridlock results," stated the author of the article, describing the changes precipitated by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's change in testing policy. "Worse, AIDS service organizations...are perceived to be unresponsive to HIV-positive people," the writer continued. "Volunteers, staff and donors struggle and become demoralized."

Interpreting the article as a statement that the AAC does not encourage testing because it cannot afford to serve the people who test positive, ACT UP members decided to lend a helping hand to the AAC's fund-raising auction two days after the protest. Several members of the activist organization greeted auction attendees with leaflets that urged them to "bid high tonight [for] HIV testing—the stakes are high!"

But when questioned about the newsletter article, Kessler acknowledged that the AAC has never served HIV-positive individuals who have not been diagnosed as having AIDS, and that the organization has no plans to offer new services.

Kessler also expressed concern that if AIDS Action began encouraging voluntary testing, Boston "might see what happened in New York: everybody rushed out for six weeks,...and it flooded the market in a way, contributing to the collapse of the system of care." Kessler later acknowledged, however, that the state of health-care institutions in the greater Boston area is already as bad as that of the New York City health-care system.

A (Not So) Simple Issue

The executive director also raised objections based on what he called "the psychology of testing."

"The thing that bothers me is the kind of calls we get on the [AAC] hotline two to three times a day, from people who tested positive and think that they are fine, or in the opposite case, from people who test negative but are convinced that they are infected and get tested every two months," offered Kessler, suggesting that a change in the AAC's testing policy may not encourage the right people to get the test. "The 'worried well' have been a problem since the beginning of this epidemic," Kessler added.

Further narrowing the definition of suitable candidates for the HIV test, Kessler declared, "We don't want some

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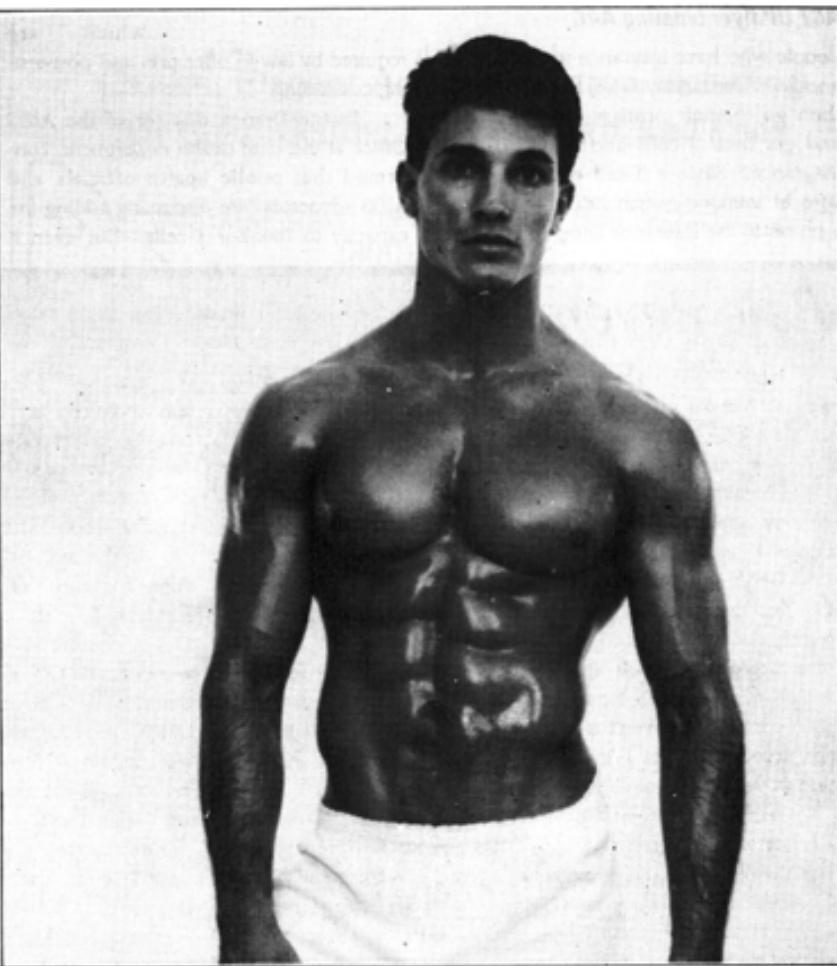


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ACT UP flyer blasting AAC

people who have insurance to rush out to an alternative [anonymous] testing site and then go to their primary-care physician and get their T-cells and bill it to their insurance." Since a T-cell count—a measure of immune-system health—serves as a tip-off to the insurance company that the

required by law to offer pre- and post-testing counseling.

Duane Draper, director of the AIDS Office at the state health department, confirmed that public health officials and AIDS advocates "are discussing adding the capacity to monitor T-cells." But even if

policyholder is HIV-positive, Kessler proposed that at least some anonymous testing sites add T-cell counts to their menu. Currently Massachusetts has approximately 27 state-run anonymous testing sites, which are

the health department's already-squeezed budget allows for this addition, the earliest point at which the state can offer T-cell monitoring will be August of 1990, according to Draper.

Kessler pointed to the T-cell counts as just one issue that makes the question of testing policy "not simple at all," contrary to what he hears ACT UP representatives saying. "We're going to urge people to get tested, but we are going to have some qualifiers," Kessler promised.

ACT UP/Boston members responded that they did not object to caveats in AAC's policy. "Most of the organizations that have a policy do have exceptions in their policies," acknowledged ACT UP's Daniel Pitcher, who wrote a statement ACT UP offered to the AAC as a prototype for its new policy. The proposal simply stated that "personal circumstances should be a determinant in *when* and *how* to get tested, not *whether* to be tested."

Draper of the health department

Role Reversal

NEW YORK—The drama unfolding in Boston this month was played out in New York City just four months ago—except then all of the major players argued opposite positions.

The controversy here erupted in mid-August, after the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the largest AIDS service organization in the country, announced its new position of testing and the inauguration of a media campaign called "Think About It."

Geoffrey Knox, GMHC's communications director, stressed that the organization's campaign was designed not to encourage testing directly, but to encourage people at risk for HIV infection to educate themselves about the test. GMHC advertisements, which ran in seven New York newspapers in August, proclaimed: "If you haven't taken the HIV test, think about it." The ads urged people at risk to call the GMHC hotline for information about the HIV-antibody test.

While GMHC took a position that would have pleased ACT UP/Boston, the reaction of many AIDS activists in New York was less than positive. Representatives of such organizations as the Hetrick-Martin Institute, the Community Health Project and ACT UP/New York criticized GMHC's decision to promote testing among people who may not have access to health care. GMHC also came under fire for purchasing expensive advertising space instead of contributing the money to fighting for treatment access.

"GMHC should put the money into advocacy for the problem, not for what the government is already pushing," Damian Martin, executive director of the Hetrick-Martin Institute, argued in August. Because GMHC's campaign was unveiled just two days before the government's announcements of the efficacy of AZT in HIV-positives and of increased funding for HIV testing, critics suspected that the AIDS organization's new policy was a result of governmental pressure.

Dismissing the timing of GMHC's and the government's announcements as coincidental, Knox acknowledged that the organization has not purchased any testing-related advertisements since August "because we can't afford it," but stressed that GMHC has not abandoned its campaign. In February, the organization will unveil a workshop for people "who are trying to decide whether to take the test."

In the months since the GMHC announcement, the controversy has subsided, although, in the words of ACT UP's Ann Northrop, "We still think that testing is a very scary issue."

At the initiative of ACT UP member Rodger Pettyjohn, who works at the Community Health Project at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, over 20 organizations, including GMHC, have formed a working coalition. The coalition has been working on a "New Yorker's bill of rights" regarding HIV testing—a large palm card that will educate those who are considering taking the test about confidentiality, access to health care and treatments and other issues.

"It's not that anyone here is against testing per se," explained ACT UP's Northrop, "We believe in testing and early intervention.... The deal is that in this city the push for testing is part of [Health Commissioner] Stephen Joseph's push for mandatory testing, reporting, contact tracing."

Joseph is expected to leave office after the new administration of Mayor-elect David Dinkins after the first of the year.

Daniel Pitcher of ACT UP/Boston's testing working group acknowledged that even if the AIDS Action Committee adopts the kind of pro-active testing policy ACT UP/Boston is urging, Boston activists will have to tackle all the issues with which New Yorkers are already struggling. Still, said Pitcher, "I stand behind our action" of demanding that the AAC begin actively encouraging testing and early intervention.

—Masha Gessen

seemed to favor ACT UP's approach. "You don't just need T-cell monitoring," Draper stated. "You need mental-health services, you need better access to health care. But at the same time, people who know they are HIV-infected have a chance to get medical help, and people who do not know they are HIV-infected have no chance to get medical help."

But What Will People Think?

To further justify his organization's choice to step slowly and carefully, Kessler suggested that a new AAC philosophy would lend credibility to increasing calls for contact tracing. "I don't want to make it too easy for the right wing to say, 'Look, even AIDS Action is in favor of contact tracing' because we're saying that now there is reason to get tested," Kessler stated.

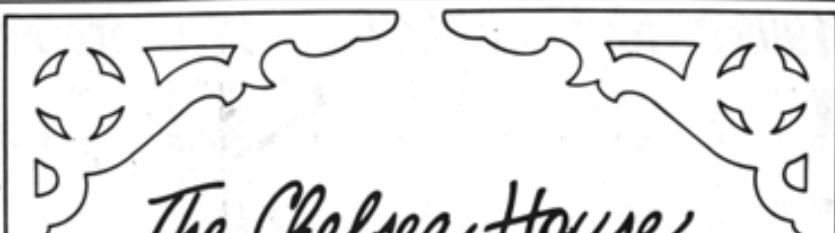
Although Massachusetts has one of the strictest HIV-confidentiality laws in the nation, a bill now pending in the state legislature would institute contact tracing in the state. The legislation started out as a current-partner-notification enabling bill, but was amended to extend to past partners and other deemed unknowingly at risk. When the bill was first introduced in the state House of Representatives, Kessler testified in favor of it.

"Partner notification is not contact tracing," Kessler offered in defense of his support for the bill. "Primarily the reason we supported that bill [as it was drafted] was to prevent contact tracing." After Kessler's testimony in favor of the bill became public knowledge earlier this year, he faced severe criticism from ACT UP and other community organizations.

The majority of members of the AAC's own Government Relations Committee had recommended that the organization oppose the bill, and the board had voted to take no position. When Kessler testified in favor of the legislation, however, he created the impression that the AAC favored the bill. As the executive director of the AAC since the group's inception, and a member of the 15-person National AIDS Commission, Kessler is widely considered the most influential AIDS spokesperson in the state.

"Another thing we need to acknowledge is that confidentiality, on a certain level, is a myth," Kessler elaborated. "I see it violated all the time, most of the time by people with AIDS themselves, talking about each other without permission." ▼

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News

1989's Top Lesbian/Gay News Items from Washington Up on the Hill: Just Where Do We Stand?

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—While earth-shattering changes on the political landscape and devastating natural disasters on the physical one made 1989 a memorable news year, events in gay and lesbian news throughout the year were also quite conspicuous.

But from inside the Capital Beltway, where wins and losses on the gay and lesbian agenda were felt on a daily basis, none stood out as clearly as others had in years past.

Unlike 1987, there was no National March on Washington on which to focus.

Unlike 1988, there was no landmark piece of legislation passed to compare with the federal AIDS omnibus bill.

And in the tradition of scandal as the chief focus of the public attention, in 1989, one of our own, openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA.) found himself caught in the downpour of bad press that accompanied many other 1989 congressional debacles.

But while it may appear that the Barney Frank mess overshadowed other developments in AIDS and gay and lesbian issues, appearances can be deceiving.

No subject throughout the year in the

gay community seemed to draw as much attention as did the revelations, first reported in late August by the conservative *Washington Times*, that openly gay Rep. Barney Frank had employed a male prostitute as a personal aide after initially paying him for sex.

While the right-wing newspaper made no secret about its career expectations for the tough-talking, liberal standard bearer, a month after the revelations were made, even some of his supporters began to doubt he would survive the deluge.

But while a handful of Frank supporters—most notably the *Boston Globe*—called on Frank to resign and spare himself and his party continued bad publicity, the leaders of the gay and lesbian movement, nearly in unison, supported the cigar-smoking congressman.

And in the wake of the scandal—which now promises to continue through into 1990—up from the headlines came a new celebrity destined to rank alongside the Jessica Hahns and Donna Rices of history: male prostitute and pimp Steven Gobie.

The man who would be the gay "Mayflower Madame," but who describes himself as a heterosexual, has since invoked the Fifth Amendment in testimony before the House ethics committee investigating the fracas, and has sold his tale to *Penthouse* magazine, where it is said he will name up to four other Congressmen in his tales.

Pentagon Covers up Pro-Gay Report

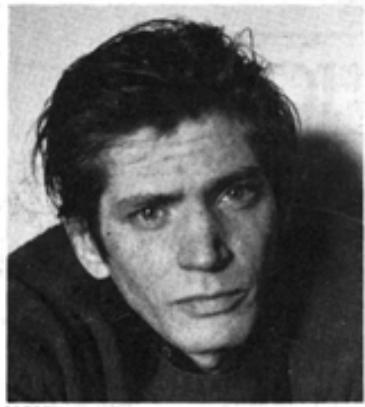
In investigating another of what had become a series of legal challenges to the military's policy of excluding lesbians and gay men, staffers at the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund came across a "smoking gun." Armed with the cover page of an undisclosed Pentagon report on homosexuality and the military, they employed the aid of openly gay Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) to uncover the complete document.



DUCK



DUCK



DUCK



GOOSE

Newsmakers Barney Frank, Anthony Fauci,
Robert Mapplethorpe and Jesse Helms

Photos: Jim Marks

For months, the Pentagon balked. And even after its existence became public knowledge, the report was so politically "hot" that Pentagon officials still would not make it available.

The paper, a Department of Defense-commissioned study into homosexuality and security risks, was never officially released, but it leaked into Studd's office through an anonymous source.

Once it was made public, however, the report, "Nonconforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability," and the defense department memos rebuking it, shook the Pentagon to its combat boots, because in it, homosexuality was called no more relevant to security risks than "left-handedness."

As might have been predicted, the Pentagon had no comment.

But the report, and the cover-up, spotlighted the political importance and sensitiv-

NEWS ANALYSIS

ity of the movement to have the military rescind its exclusionary policy—a movement that had both wins and losses in 1989.

Short of the passage of a congressional gay and lesbian rights bill, the reversal of the military's policy is the most dramatic affirmation of federal gay and lesbian rights on the horizon.

AIDS Activists Shake Federal Bureaucracies

Massive, persistent demonstrations across the country led the war against AIDS in an unprecedented direction last year, as activists were ushered through the very doors at which they had protested so loudly and long.

Dialogue between AIDS activists and the government's official AIDS machine surprised many in the community, when federal bureaucrats and seasoned radicals sat down together to dine, negotiate and set policy.

Led by a handful of well-versed AIDS activists, most notably from ACT UP/New York and San Francisco's Project Inform, the AIDS community finally got a seat at the table.

Through a savvy combination of testimony, closed-door meetings and direct action, activists gained key victories at the Food and Drug Administration, and made notable inroads into the nation's Public Health Service.

See HILL on page 69

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Police Admit Errors, Re-Open Abuse Probe

by John Voelcker

NEW YORK—In an unusual reversal of a previous decision, a police bureau that investigates allegations of police misconduct agreed to re-open a Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) investigation into alleged police violence at an ACT UP demonstration on Wall Street in March 1988.

And the head of the investigative unit, Sandra Marsh, admitted that the investigation was done in ways that



OUTRAGED, OUTSPOKEN

Gerri Wells

Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

"wouldn't happen today," and that the board in general probably lacks credibility with New York's lesbian and gay community. "People who are victims rightly believe the system doesn't work in their interest," she said.

The CCRB investigates allegations by citizens of violence and misconduct by members of the New York City Police Department. It is made up of six police officers and six civilians. The bureau that investigates such allegations is staffed by both police and civilians.

Matters came to a head on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the last meeting of the current Mayor's Police Council. More than two dozen gay men and lesbians attended, according to participant Gerri Wells, as well as Police Chief Robert Johnston and other high-ranking officers. Gay community members unanimously and vocally condemned the board for its complete lack of credibility.

"I was very surprised," Wells said. "Everybody was outraged and in total agreement that the whole investigation was done incorrectly. We demanded that they re-open the case, and that they do the job right this time. It's what we pay them for."

Questioners who asked the CCRB for details of its investigation were told, Wells said, that the results were confidential and could not be released. Attorney Joan Gibbs, of the Center for Constitutional Rights, is now preparing to subpoena the CCRB's full report on the results of the investigation.

Statements "Troubling"

The most heated disagreement, Wells said, came when Sandra Marsh told questioners that not enough credible witnesses to the alleged violence existed.

Wells responded angrily that she had statements in her hand from 13 demonstrators and four witnesses, including herself. "They all told the same story," she said. "On the bus, after we were arrested, we all saw one sergeant [whom Wells identified by name and shield number] hitting and kicking people at random. I even leaned out the window to tell another officer what he was doing. And they say all 17 of those reports aren't credible?"

In an interview with *OutWeek*, Marsh said she had found it "troubling" that all the statements alleged misbehavior by a single officer. "Usually,"

she said, "if people are making up a story, they do it about everybody."

She also noted that several people who attended the meeting said they had information that had not been requested by CCRB investigators. She called the lead investigator from the meeting, Marsh said, asked him about the new points that had been raised and then instructed him to prepare to re-open the case.

Things That "Wouldn't Happen Today"

Based on issues raised by the Anti-Violence Project after the case was closed, she said, she told investigators to prepare a matrix that correlated the different allegations, complainants, witnesses and officers. The goal was to try to "get a common thread" among the varying reports and statements.

The matrix is now a standard tool for CCRB investigators. But it was not used when the complaint was first investigated, Marsh said. "Lots of things happened in that investigation that wouldn't happen today," she said.

The CCRB has done a post-mortem on the demonstration, she said, and "we know the mistakes were made. We should have been faster, more thorough and dealt better with the issues raised."

Credibility "A Difficult Question"

Asked if she thought the CCRB had credibility in the New York gay and lesbian community, Marsh said, "That's difficult. I do understand the perspectives of individuals from outside the system, based on the results [produced by investigations]."

She cautioned that while only 12 percent of allegations of misconduct are substantiated—up from ten percent before she arrived in March 1988—a finding that charges are unsubstantiated does not exonerate

the officers involved.

Investigations can result in various outcomes: substantiated, unsubstantiated, unfounded, officer(s) exonerated, or complainants or witnesses unavailable or uncooperative.

In this case, she said, "I don't want to raise anyone's expectations. I'm hoping that we will get good and solid evidence that will move us toward a just resolution. Whatever the outcome is, we want to be satisfied that we did everything we could do."

At least one complainant, however, will no longer answer questions from the CCRB. Lewis Holman, 30, an ACT UP member who was at the Wall Street demonstration, told *OutWeek* he felt that cooperating with the new investigation would simply validate "the pretense that [the CCRB] is a functioning body."

Holman complained to the CCRB in 1985 about press statements by uniformed officers who said that lesbians and gays should not be part of society, much less on the police force. He told the board, he said, that he did not feel the police would protect him as a gay man and he asked that the officers be disciplined.

"Laughably Ineffective"

No action was taken, Holman said. The board told him that the officers' right to free speech under the First Amendment took precedence, and that only if their words incited a riot could they be disciplined. Holman says he has now given up on the CCRB, and doesn't intend to "waste time" giving them information beyond what was in his initial affidavit.

"It's a laughably ineffective body," he shrugged.

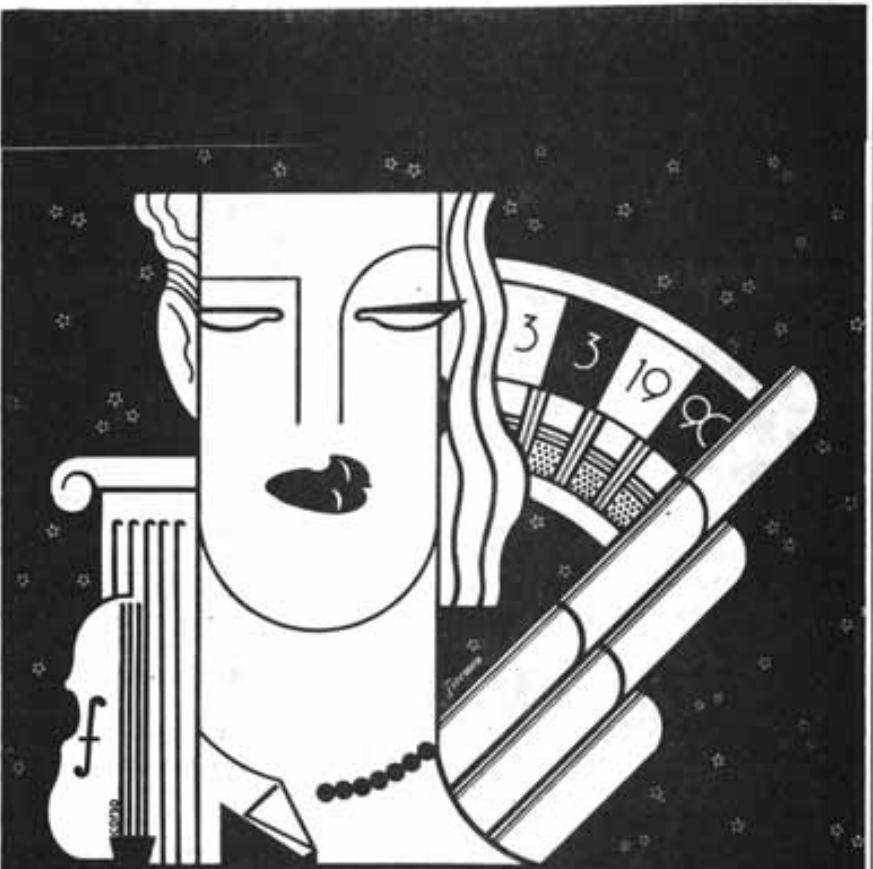
Wells voiced a similar skepticism. She cautioned that a new investigation is no guarantee that the CCRB's findings will change. "The system isn't designed to work for gay people," she said. "They just laugh at us."

Anyone who has information on any improper police actions at the ACT UP demonstration on Wall Street on March 24, 1988, can contact either Gerri Wells, at (212) 475-4363; the NY Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, at (212) 807-6761; or the Civilian Complaint Review Board at (212) 323-8750. ▼



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Out Takes

Rosanne's "faggy" dilemma

LOS ANGELES—Movie actress and television comedian Roseanne Barr on Dec. 20 responded to critics in the gay and lesbian community regarding published comments in which she referred to a film competing with her own new release as being "faggy."

"I will continue to work against racism, sexism, classism and homophobia," stated Barr through a spokesperson. "I will add 'faggy' to my list of unsayable, hateful words."

Barr, star of ABC television's *Roseanne*, made her controversial statements in the Dec. 7 *Washington Post*, speaking about her new film *She Devil*.

"Our movie is not like *Steel Magnolias*," said Barr. "That was a faggy movie where all the women were men. Our movie depicts strong, bitchy women who don't just sit around. And no, I don't think they are too bitchy. Women can never be too bitchy..."

But those reacting to Barr's original statement are now only marginally satisfied with the comedian's succinct response to their concerns.

"Ms. Barr's statement is a good first step in that it acknowledges that the word 'fag' is not appropriate for common use," reported Karin Schwartz, assistant director of the New York-based Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). "However, it doesn't begin to go far enough when you consider the millions of people—particularly straight people—who heard about the first quote, but will never hear the statement."

Shortly after being apprised of the comments, GLAAD began a series of negotiations with Barr's openly lesbian sister Geraldine Barr to secure a commitment from the entertainer for an apology and, possibly, a videotaped public service announcement condemning anti-gay and anti-lesbian discrimination and violence.

According to Schwartz, Geraldine Barr expressed that Roseanne's comments were made in the context of speaking

against Hollywood's stereotyping of women in films and was not made out of bigotry. Geraldine reportedly further expressed that Roseanne was very receptive to the idea of creating the public service announcements.

However, after the week of telephone conversations, described by Schwartz as "highly productive," personal problems on Roseanne Barr's part led to a postponement of further negotiations.

Soon thereafter, the matter was referred to Roseanne Barr's public relations agents who released the comedian's Dec. 7 statement, one week after the last contact between GLAAD and Geraldine Barr.

Still, GLAAD is disappointed at what they are characterizing as the "smokescreen" which has been put up between her and the Barrs by the public relations agents.

"Evidently," Schwartz contends, "Ms. Barr's public relations experts didn't like the direction in which the negotiations were heading, and have interceded. Consequently, pure public relations interests may prevent Ms. Barr from doing something truly decent at this time, something that we think we honestly believe in. The bottom line is, that in the homophobic world in which we live, it is better textbook public relations to alienate the gay and lesbian community rather than run the risk of angering bigots in the straight community."

Since receiving Roseanne Barr's terse statement, Schwartz's attempts to contact Geraldine Barr directly and through her press agent have been unsuccessful.

"A week ago I was talking the language of commitment with Geraldine Barr," Schwartz added. "So this all is unfortunate."

Schwartz said that even before being apprised of Barr's controversial statement, had contemplated approaching Barr for a pro-gay public service announcement, based on her history of feminism and her public acknowledgment of having gay family members.

And in the meantime, GLAAD will concentrate on other candidates it considers approachable, including Tony Danza, Beatrice Arthur, Clint Eastwood, Madonna, Whoopi Goldberg, Jay Leno, Bette Midler,



Roseanne Barr

Robin Williams, Lily Tomlin, Bill Cosby, Billy Crystal and Malcolm Jamal-Warner, in an attempt to generate other pro-gay ads.

Last year, Schwartz negotiated a widely publicized public service announcement from comedian Bob Hope after he casually used the word "fag" on an episode of the *Tonight Show*.

—Cliff O'Neill

Women and AIDS in NYC

NEW YORK—More than a third of New York City women at highest risk for AIDS incorrectly believe that the disease affects only homosexuals and that HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bites, according to the findings of a major citywide survey on women and AIDS by the health department here.

Citing the large number of low-income, minority women who are statistically at risk for AIDS, the Department of Health interviewed 1,850 women in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan, most of whom were Puerto Ricans or African-Americans living below the federal poverty line.

While almost all women knew that HIV can be transmitted via semen and that "condom use is effective in preventing

HIV transmission," only 32 percent have begun using, or increased their use of, condoms.

Some 14 percent cited their partners' refusal to use condoms as the reason they "occasionally" or "never" used condoms. Fifteen percent stopped having sex all together.

More than half of the women mistakenly thought transmission of the virus associated with AIDS impossible by sharing food utensils and by giving blood. In New York City, AIDS is the leading cause of death in women aged 25 to 39, and of children aged one to four.

Although the health department said that this is the largest survey of its kind to ever have been done here, the results did not tally significant statistical information on lesbians. The questionnaire did ask about sex partners: 1.2 percent of the respondents said they had sex exclusively with other women, while one percent said they had sex with both men and women.

Dr. Stephen Joseph, the city's outgoing health commissioner and a frequent proponent of large-scale, confidential HIV testing, stated that the survey confirmed some of his department's working hypotheses: Of the women planning to take the HIV antibody test, 25 percent said they would be tested only if the results were kept anonymous, but 75 percent said they would be tested "confidentially." Currently, all public HIV testing in New York State is done anonymously.

Of the total women surveyed, 42 percent were Hispanic, 31 percent were African-American and 27 percent were white. All were between ages 25 and 39.

—Rick Sugden

High school gets gay rights

OAK PARK, Illinois—A suburban Chicago high school board has passed discrimination protections for gay and lesbian students following a seven-month fight with fundamentalist Christians.

The Oak Park-River Forest High School Board voted unanimously Dec. 13 to add the phrase "sexual orientation" to

its Human Dignity and Diversity policy.

Board president Alexander Schmidt told reporters, "Frankly, I was a little surprised at the vehemence of the opposition and the distortions."

Christians had faced off against a coalition of school groups, church leaders, government officials and community activists in opposing the gay protections.

The Christians blanketed the city with anti-gay leaflets and took out large ads in newspapers, charging the board with endorsing homosexuality and opening the door for gay proms, gay curricula and gay awareness month.

They also said the policy would encourage students to turn gay and bring homosexual teachers to the district.

At one public hearing in November, more than 400 people argued about the policy for four hours. Many said they had come only because of their anger over the Christian "hate mail."

According to Mel Wilson of the Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Organization, the lengthy public debate "has been the best thing ever to happen to Oak Park gays [because] awareness of sexual orientation is now at an all-time high."

Oak Park has a large lesbian and gay

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Out Takes

population and passed a city gay rights law earlier this year.

The new school board policy is believed to be the first of its kind in Illinois, and Robert Bray, spokesman for the

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said it may be the first in the nation.

Bray added that "whenever we win in the suburbs, we know we are making formidable progress. It's gratifying," he

said, "to know that to some degree the right-wing religious arch-conservatives sealed their own fate on this. People will respond negatively to hate mail because they believe in the truth." —Rex Wockner



NEW YORK — Karen Thompson is back out on the activist circuit, gearing up for yet another battle in her fight for her lover's rights to dignity and self-determination.

Thompson has attained folk-heroine status in the community for her work to win the rights to visit and care for her lover, Sharon Kowalski, who was severely disabled in a car accident in 1983.

Since then, Thompson, with the help of the National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski, has fought off court injunctions and Kowalski's homophobic parents, who tried unsuccessfully to stand between Thompson and their daughter.

Kowalski, through various communica-

tions aids for the disabled, has clearly expressed a desire to one day return "home" with Thompson.

Thompson was so successful that the National Committee shut down earlier this year. But now that Kowalski's recovery is sufficiently progressed to allow her to leave her full-time care facility, Thompson faces more days in court as a legal guardian for Kowalski is chosen.

Thompson, who has extended her work to include rights for the disabled, and domestic partnership rights for gay men and lesbians, met the press Dec. 14 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. She is pictured holding a photograph of herself, Kowalski and friends taken last summer. photo: Ellen B. Neipris

AIDS insurance down under

SYDNEY, Australia—An Australian airline has agreed to give a sizable lump sum payout to employees who have AIDS if they become too ill to continue working.

Australia's national carrier included the new provision in its superannuation scheme, Australia's version of Social Security, following lobbying efforts by the flight attendant's union on behalf of three flight attendants who have AIDS.

Previously, people who could not continue working because of illness or disability had only two options. They could resign and take a modest payout based on their superannuation contributions, or they could remain with the company which would pay them a small weekly disability pension. If they died while on the pension, they would still be covered by the superannuation scheme's life insurance policy, and their estates would receive a considerable death benefit. For some PWAs this means they will receive up to three times the payout they could have expected if they resigned under the old conditions.

One of the three flight attendants who first approached the AFAA for help in getting the improved entitlements described the decision as a major victory for PWAs in an area where to date they have received "a pretty raw deal."

"Superannuation and insurance are the two areas where people with AIDS and HIV infection have suffered major civil rights defeats," he said. "Decisions like this go a long way to recovering some of the ground we have lost."

—Terrence Bell

AIDS housing rights upheld

CHICAGO—The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU) announced today it has reached a settlement in the federal lawsuit it filed on behalf of Charles Baxter against the City of Belleville, Illinois.

The city had tried to prevent Baxter from opening a home for people with AIDS or HIV infection.

According to John Hammell, Director of the ACLU's AIDS and Civil Liberties Project, the suit was the first in the nation filed under the federal Fair Housing Act to protect people with AIDS.

According to the settlement agreement, the city of Belleville will pay Baxter \$29,000, plus his attorney's fees and costs connected with bringing suit. The city also guarantees that Baxter and persons working with him will be allowed to operate the home for persons with HIV infection or AIDS. And the city has promised to refrain from any interference with Baxter.

"The resolution of this case should help stop housing discrimination based on AIDS," Hammel said. "It makes clear there is a federal legal remedy for such discrimination, and anyone who commits such discrimination—including government bodies—will have to pay for their actions."

Czech it out

PRAGUE—As Czechoslovakia, along with much of Eastern Europe, races toward "freedom" and "democracy," the founders of the nation's first gay organization say the pace of change in the gay community is equally dizzying.

"I'm surprised you even got through on the telephone," said Jan Lany, founder of Lambda Prague, now called Lambda Czechoslovakia. "Many evenings I am on the phone all evening, counseling and taking calls."



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Out Takes



NEW YORK — Eve's Garden, "the world's first sexuality boutique to be created by women for women," presented its inaugural "Woman of the Century" award to lesbian sex expert Betty Dodson Dec. 10.

Dodson, is the author of *Sex for One*, a masturbation manual for women, and also conducts sex workshops and hosts her own cable television show. The award marked her "outstanding contribution to women's sexual liberation," according to Eve's Garden owner Dell Williams.

Lesbian businesswoman Williams was presented with a plaque commemorating her shop's fifteenth anniversary.

"In 1974, Dell Williams wanted to buy a vibrator but discovered there was no place for women to go and be comfortable making such a purchase," said Marcia Corbett, Eve's Garden's vice president.

"Fifteen years and some 10,000 vibrators and over 3,000 dildos later, Dell Williams has reached women all over the world," she continued.

The award was presented during a small party celebrating the boutique's anniversary Dec. 10.
photo: Myrna Morales

Lany's home phone doubles as Prague's gay switchboard.

The most obvious impact of what Lany called "the November 17th Revolution"—the day police violently broke up a student demonstration and unwittingly toppled the government—is the race to form gay groups throughout the country.

"Every day I receive news from another city ready to set up a group," Lany said. "There are three independent groups in Prague now and organizations on the way in Ostrava, Brno, Bratislava, throughout the country."

Starting this month, a new youth magazine will feature two "gay pages" every issue. This follows several positive newspaper reports on Lambda and the Czech gay community in the months following Lany and his lover Richard's return from July's International Lesbian and Gay Association world conference in Vienna.

But Lambda does have a thorny media relations problem.

"I can't find anybody who is openly gay and can appear in front of TV cameras," Lany said. "Perhaps it's going to have to be me to talk for TV."

Lany does not think his job as a high school teacher would be imperiled if he became Czechoslovakia's first televised homosexual.

At the moment, Lambda hosts a weekly gay community social at the Vinarna U Petra Voka Wine Cellar. And along with Prague's other gay groups, they arrange bimonthly trips to the country and various evenings of speakers or entertainment.

Lambda has about 80 members, although the bulk of the work is done by 12 people, Lany said.

AIDS is consuming more of the group's energy each month because, according to Lany, the majority of Czechoslovak gays don't yet feel threatened by the disease.

At last count, three persons had died, 20 were sick and 150 had tested positive for HIV antibodies.

"The majority of [men having sex with each other] still think that AIDS simply hasn't appeared in Czechoslovakia," Lany said. "They go for outside cruising in the park and so on and have sex with anybody. We try our best to give educa-



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Jan Lany

Photo: Rex Wockner

tion to our gay people but the majority, and the secret gays—those bisexuals who have families and simply don't want to come out—still practice the unsafe ways of sex." —Rex Wockner

Illinois gay marriage loses appeal

CHICAGO—Two gay journalists who unsuccessfully tried to obtain a marriage license have lost their appeal to the Illinois Human Relations Commission.

Paul Varnell and *OutWeek* national correspondent Rex Wockner filed a complaint with the state Department of Human Rights last spring after Wockner was encouraged to do so by bureaucrats he was interviewing regarding Chicago's new Human Rights Ordinance.

In rejecting the appeal, the Commission said the state Human Rights Act, which outlaws discrimination based on gender, was not meant to overturn the state marriage act, which specifies that marriage partners must be of opposite sexes.

Wockner and Varnell had claimed
See OUT TAKES on page 54

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Lesbian Allegiances

by **Masha Gessen**

Nothing happened. At least that's what the newspaper reporter said, when I called to tell her about the approval of my application for U.S. citizenship. What she meant is that *nothing out of the ordinary* happened: I applied for naturalization, and, like any other legal refugee who has lived in this country long enough and can demonstrate proficiency in U.S. history and the English language, I was granted citizenship—despite my insistence on mentioning at every juncture that I am a lesbian.

The reporter was right. The sequence of events briefly known as my test case would make for a terrible article: a drawn-out tedious beginning, a



THE AUTHOR BECOMES A LESBIAN-AMERICAN

Photo: Nina Reyes

short and shallow middle part and a completely predictable ending. No tension whatsoever. A flop.

It all began in December of 1978—precisely 11 years, or half of my life ago—when my father took our application for an exit visa to the Office of Visas and International Travel in Moscow. A trying two and a half years later, my mother, my father, my six-year-old brother Konstantin and I landed at Boston's Logan Airport. Over the next five years, my brother changed his name to Keith, I tried in vain to keep everyone from calling me Masha and

all four of us accumulated enough residence time to become eligible for U.S. citizenship.

My parents and my brother applied and were naturalized, and my mother and father registered to vote as Republicans, like everyone else who lived in the neighborhood into which my father's by-then six-figure income had taken them. I stalled, because I am a procrastinator, and because for four years already I had been quite publicly out as a lesbian, which most likely made me a person of insufficiently good moral character in the eyes of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Over the next two and a half years, I updated my application for naturalization three times—each time filing the completed form in my desk drawer—wrote half a dozen articles about the immigration laws pertaining to gays and lesbians, and continuously performed a mental risk-benefit analysis of applying for naturalization as an open lesbian. In August of 1988 I finally called a gay immigration lawyer and told him I wanted to challenge the INS policy of discriminating against homosexuals.

I felt breathtakingly liberated, like I had felt the day we received the exit visa. I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I actually looked forward to the hurdles of the next five or eight years: the hearings, the appeals, the fundraising to cover the astronomical legal fees, the demonstrations in front of the INS and the Supreme Court, the endless phone calls from reporters, the fame, the glory...Even my new lawyer seemed excited, in a lawyerly sort of way.

We filed my papers with some fanfare in February. My application con-

tained at least three instances of the words *gay* and *lesbian*, and a special cover letter declared war.

An uneventful ten months later, I received an invitation to appear in the cafeteria of Boston Latin High School for the swearing-in ceremony. Despite my attorney's insistence that she would be breaking INS policy, the INS official who interviewed me had approved my application. And the agency processed my papers about four months ahead of schedule.

The morning of the ceremony I was filled with dread. Joking with my lover about the possibility that the INS notice was a trap, and that I would be put on a plane to Moscow instead of getting sworn in, I suddenly developed an uncomfortably heightened awareness of my surroundings and of the ease with which my condominium-owning, Levi's-wearing, Japanese-car-driving, two-kinds-of-computers-using lifestyle could be destroyed. I was suddenly conscious not only of being in the shower with my lover, but of all the improbability of such a setting in the country where I grew up.

With my right hand raised as though I were taking an oath, I modeled several outfits in front of the mirror. I checked the amount of cash in my pocket and mentally assessed its buying power in Moscow. On some not-so-deep level, the possibility of being sent back to the Soviet Union seemed no more unrealistic than the possibility of becoming an American citizen.

The flag was the first thing I saw when we entered the oldest high school in the country (founded in 1635, a year before Harvard University). There were already several hundred people in the school cafeteria, most of them still wearing their coats, jammed together on uncomfortable benches, Ellis Island-style. I sat down on a nearly empty bench, but was immediately joined by people on both sides. A woman and her teenage son sat down to my right, speaking English to each other. The woman's accent identified her as Soviet-born. A young man squeezed in to my left. He was

wearing a tiny gold hoop in his left ear, and was laughing and flailing his hands the way so many of my acquaintances do. I laughed at myself for thinking that here, of all places, I would be the only one.

To my surprise, everyone around me was speaking English, joking and discoursing with ease. I realized that I had expected a bunch of immigrants and instead was confronted with Americans a lot like me. A number of people were wearing American-flag buttons in their lapels. Mine was an American flag with a pink triangle.

Three hours later, we were finally ushered into a beautiful old auditorium, where the walls were decorated with the names of the high school's famous alumni—Adams, Emerson, Kennedy. My lover and I sat down in the front row just as INS officials were placing a flag on the stage—a brand new one, with a shiny gold fringe.

As the judge began speaking, I wondered if I would be allowed a final moment of truth—some sort of a "speak-now-or-forever-hold-your-peace" opportunity, when I could get up in front of the 381 applicants and as many guests and declare that I was still a lesbian. I began to sweat as I imagined the moment. But then the court clerk directed us to stand up and recite the oath of allegiance, and I realized it was all over.

Then the judge began a speech, directed at all of us from Vietnam, Korea and the Soviet Union, about the American tradition of democracy, the Americans' tradition of apathy and our duty to participate in the political process even as those for whom it is a birthright neglect to do so. To my surprise and embarrassment, I felt close to crying in front of the 381 people who would understand, and about as many who probably wouldn't.

After almost nine years in this country, I felt mature and healthily cynical. It had taken me a few years to feel secure enough to acknowledge that this country is not perfect. It was some time before I decided that Ayn Rand was

See LESBIAN ALLEGIANCES on page 31



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GLAAD TIDINGS

WABC-TV in New York has blamed gays and lesbians for the fact that some homeless people are forced to sleep out in the cold, on the streets.

In late November, WABC-TV's Tappy Phillips did a report on homeless people, and how the violence and theft in New York City shelters is forcing many to sleep in the street.

Her report centered on a comment by one homeless person that the reason he prefers to sleep in the street is because homosexuals are attacking homeless people in shelters and raping them. The homeless man then pointed to a homeless youth, and stated that he was "violated" last week.

There was no attempt to place this man's comments in the general context of the general high level of violence and crime on the streets and in shelters. And there was no attempt to counteract the premise that the threat of violence and physical assault derives entirely from homosexuals.

Viewers could not help but be left with the impression that WABC-TV believes that gays are largely to blame for the plight of homeless people. The people who hate us already do not need to be told by WABC-TV that they are justified in continuing to do so. And gay-bashers shouldn't be

able to look to television for (misinformed) "reasons" to beat us up.

We suggest you write to WABC and encourage them to cover some of the *real* stories relating jointly to gay issues and the homeless. Such as how the gay and lesbian teenage homeless are forced out onto the streets by homophobic violence in the shelters and inadequate social programs tailored specifically for them. And such as how the government's inadequate response to the AIDS crisis, as well as homophobic insurance company policies, have forced many people with AIDS into poverty and out of their homes.

Write to: Mr. William Applegate, News Director, WABC-TV, 77 West



66th St., New York, NY 10023.

A GLAAD member in Cleveland has written to us about a regular columnist for the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, which is Ohio's largest newspaper with over 350,000 readers statewide. The columnist, Michael Heaton, also goes by a self-appointed title of "Minister of Culture." As his columns bear out, the "culture" that he ministers to is a homophobic one.

A column he wrote earlier this Fall, entitled "Earthquake shakes one flaky place," was supposed to be about how proud San Francisco should be of its cultural richness, specifically as the home town of several famous rock music groups. A running pun was the very physical rock-

ing and rolling that hit San Francisco in the form of the recent earthquake.

A seemingly innocuous enough subject, one would think. Yet Heaton managed to throw in a gratuitous paragraph about San Francisco dedicated to slamming the gays who live there. He wrote:

"There's also the homosexual stigma. I lived there for three years and remember telling people on airplanes or other places where people from all over the map are forced to gather and chat, that I was an S.F. resident... There was always a bit of a pause and you could see the subconscious eyebrows being raised. Then you felt like you had to make a joke or talk about your nonexistent experiences in 'Nam so they wouldn't think you were a nancy-boy."

According to the GLAAD member, Heaton has been writing similar material ever since he was hired. He has labelled clothes worn by European policemen "nancy boy" uniforms, and has editorialized on what he feels was Rock Hudson's questionable status as a "real man."

These are the kind of statements made by one who is insecure about his or her own sexual orientation, and who wants to affirm at all costs the he is "not that way." They certainly shouldn't be confused as sophisticated social commentary and they surely don't deserve regular column space in a legitimate newspaper.

Write to Michael Heaton's editor, Julie Washington. Let her know that Heaton's insecurity-ridden and stereotype-filled gay material belongs in a psychiatrist's office, and not in a newspaper.

Write: Julie E. Washington, Editor, Friday Magazine, Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. ▼

—Karin Schwartz

LESBIAN ALLEGIANCES from page 29

wrong on many subjects besides homosexuality. It took even longer to stop equating political progress with the retardation of world communism. I could now bitch and protest with the rest of gay and lesbian activists without feeling slightly traitorous.

But there was at least one bit of Ayn Rand-ism, described in some out-of-print book, that held meaning for me even after the age of 17. It seems that that other Jewish woman who fled the Soviet Union was standing on a New York street corner one day, handing out political leaflets. Some passerby noted her accent and questioned her right to be proselytizing on an American street corner. To which Rand responded with something like this: "That's right! I chose to be an American. What did *you* ever do, besides being born here?"

So, standing in a high school auditorium, listening to a federal judge give a speech he probably repeats weekly, I felt fiercely proud to have chosen this country, whose institutions discriminate against members of my community, whose highest court rules that we have no right to privacy and whose political leaders often exhibit the same kind of intolerance that I fled when I left the Soviet Union. I still cannot name a country where I would rather become a citizen. At home, I told my lover about my fruitless wait for a final opportunity to ask the INS why a lesbian was being sworn in as a citizen. "You could have said something when the judge said, 'Speak now or forever hold you peace,'" she responded. It appears that in my anxious state I blanked out my opportunity.

So, nothing happened. Except that one person with few rights anywhere in the world—my official designation until the ceremony was "stateless"—issued a challenge, and a huge government institution did not even rise to defend decades of homophobic practice. As battles go, it was downright boring. But then again, perhaps most battles are not that exciting—which makes me wonder what this country would be like if only more Americans exercised their birthright to fight. ▼

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Drug of the Month

by Mark Harrington

For far too long, mainstream AIDS research has focused most of its attention on the behavior of HIV in the test tube. How HIV interacts within the human body remains poorly understood. There is still no concise explanation of how HIV causes such immune devastation while remaining difficult to isolate. With tests like PCR (polymerase chain reaction), which detects viral DNA in cells where the virus is not active, HIV can be detected in only 1/1,000 T4 cells from people with advanced disease.

Clearly, many pieces are missing from the puzzle of the pathogenesis of AIDS. This fall, much publicity followed reports from Stanford and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) about the possible role of NAC (n-acetylcysteine) as an immune-enhancing or antiretroviral treatment.

NAC is available in the U.S. in an oral form for Tylenol overdoses and as an aerosolized liquid to alleviate symptoms of bronchitis. It is available in Europe as an effervescent tablet. The major toxicities reported by the U.S. sponsor include "nausea, vomiting, other gastrointestinal symptoms" and sometimes rash and fever, as side effects of high-dose oral NAC.

NAC is the pharmaceutical form of the amino acid, cysteine. Cysteine is the crucial middle amino acid in a three-peptide chain called glutathione. According to Robert Bohinski in *Modern Concepts in Biochemistry* (4th edition, Allen and Bacon, 1983) glutathione is the most common biologically active peptide. It exists in two states, reduced (three peptides)

and oxidized (two three-peptide chains linked by a disulfide bond).

Glutathione roams through the blood scavenging harmful oxidizing agents (free radicals) which might otherwise oxidize vital proteins, destroying their function. It also helps transport amino acids across cell membranes and helps maintain the iron atom inside hemoglobin molecules (which carry oxygen from the lungs to other tissue around the body) in its reduced state.

In 1985, Dr. Wedner and others at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver demonstrated that glutathione was crucial for activation of lymphocytes (immune T cells and B cells).

(TNF) levels produced by HIV activated cells. TNF has been shown to cause anemia, wasting syndrome, fevers and other symptoms associated with HIV infection and other conditions in which the immune system is chronically activated. Other work from the laboratory of Anthony S. Fauci at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has shown that herpes, cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) infected cells also produce TNF, and may be cofactors in AIDS.

The most recent confirmation of the role of lowered glutathione in the pathogenesis of AIDS came from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, where Roland Buhl, Ronald Crystal *et al.* showed that glutathione levels were depressed in the lungs of people infected with HIV long before

symptoms appeared. Glutathione levels are deficiency throughout the bloodstream of HIV infected asymptomatics, according to their report.

Total and reduced glutathione concentrations in the plasma of the HIV infected subjects were about 90

percent of those in the normal individuals. Since glutathione enhances immune function, glutathione deficiency may contribute to the progressive immune dysfunction of HIV infection.

The NIH team is considering administration of an aerosolized form of glutathione, through a nebulizer. This is similar to how aerosolized pentamidine is taken. It is thought that perhaps delivering glutathione directly to the lungs, where its levels are depressed (and the most common AIDS related infection, PCP, appears most often) might assist pulmonary immune defenses.

The researchers noted that HIV infection is, to our knowledge, the only known condition in which there is a generalized deficiency in extracellular glutathione levels.

There are several ways in which

Anecdotal reports indicate that some PWAs feel they are benefiting from NAC

The next year, German researcher Wulf Droege showed that glutathione augments the activation of cytotoxic (cell-killing) T cells in animals.

Earlier this year, Wulf Droege and his colleagues at the Institute for Immunology and Genetics in the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, West Germany, published a set of papers demonstrating that blood from HIV infected persons contains decreased proportions of glutathione. With AZT therapy, plasma (blood) glutathione levels rise, but intracellular levels remain low.

Since cysteine is a precursor of glutathione, Stanford researchers Leonard and Leonore Herzenberg added NAC to a cell culture in which HIV proteins were active. The test tube study showed that NAC blocked the elevated tumor necrosis factor

HIV infection could lower glutathione levels. 1) Glutathione synthesis may be depressed by some unknown mechanism. 2) Chronically activated, infected T cells might use up more glutathione. 3) Other proteins (e.g., TNF) involved in HIV infection might use up glutathione.

In addition, NAC has been shown to increase T cell formation; perhaps the lowered T cell formation characteristic of HIV infection might be related to the deficiency of glutathione in immune cells.

The NIH team reported that it is not yet clear whether the abnormalities in immune function relate to glutathione in the metabolism of immune cells, or its function as an antioxidant. If glutathione influences metabolism, treatment with glutathione or a close analogue might be useful, whereas if it is the antioxidant function that is relevant, a variety of molecules might be useful.

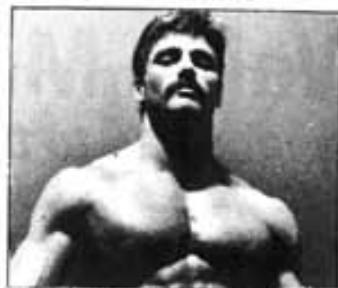
Depending on which mechanism is biologically significant, taking NAC may or may not help people with HIV infection. One New York physician has been prescribing NAC for about a year, and no clinical effects have been reported. Anecdotal reports from Florida and California indicate that some PWAs feel they are benefiting from NAC. Some people with HIV already take anti-oxidant agents like the over-the-counter supplement CoQ-10 to those taking NAC. The PWA Health Group (212/532-0280) will soon begin selling NAC tablets from Europe, since the American form is dispensed in a liquid form which can cause vomiting. Jon Engbretson from ACT UP's Treatment and Data Committee has organized a monitoring survey, which will be available at the Health Group, to collect information from people taking NAC. There will be a baseline questionnaire and three monthly follow-up surveys. In this fashion, it may be possible to determine, long before results from a controlled clinical trial are available, whether the doses of NAC proposed for use by people with HIV or AIDS are useful. ▼

Thanks to Jon Engbretson for the monitoring survey and for his research.

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GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

Living with AIDS

Government Benefits for PWAs and PWARCs

by Robert Getso

Many people find that work is the added burden which causes their health to decline, while those with severe disabilities due to HIV-disease are simply unable to manage a job. In cases where continuing work is an option but meeting financial obligations is a real obstacle because of the high cost of medical care and therapies such as AZT and pentamidine, government relief programs can provide financial assistance. If you have been diagnosed with AIDS or AIDS-related complex you may not have to continue working. This article is an introduction to various government entitlement programs, or relief agencies, available to PWAs and PWARCs.

Government enti-

tlements through relief agencies, such as New York State Disability, Social Security and New York City's Division of AIDS Services are not easy to get, even if you meet their qualifications for disability due to AIDS or ARC. What needs to be understood is that relief is not readily conceded to anyone, no matter how severe the disability. The relief agencies are whipping boys; they make visible the dependent poor and thus take much of the blame for the poor. That those with HIV-disease are considered morally or personally defective feeds

this discrimination.

Relief agencies, in order to protect their organization and their budget (most agencies under-budget to save the agency as much money as possible), make it very difficult for people to get on these programs, even though they may meet the agencies' requirement for disability due to AIDS/ARC. Termination of benefits, for example, is sometimes the result of errors in systems already overloaded with paperwork and haphazard procedures. Other cases are closed as

cial Security or NYC's Division of AIDS Services must surely recognize the tactic of extending waiting periods for financial relief. These waiting periods create backlogs which weary people and discourage applicants. Social Security is expert at making a PWA or PWARC feel like a worthless, destitute piece of shit; they degrade people with HIV-disease so they won't come back for the government money.

While many of the agencies require in-person interviews, they may actually require several appointments to complete the paperwork. Social Security, while maintaining a teleclaim system, is notorious for requiring PWAs and PWARCs to return home to retrieve documents, such as a lease, which they failed to mention would be needed at the initial interview, and this can delay approval of the case by several weeks. Failure to complete any document for Social Security, or documents not received

by Social Security because they were "lost in the mail," may result in a termination of the case. Believe me, the nightmare scenarios for dealing with Social Security are legion.

Government relief programs are worst for those without patience and some financial means. The city, state and federal programs are most unfair to the poorest of the poor. It takes about three months to receive a "presumptive" disability check from Social Security, and then three more months to begin receiving checks on a monthly basis. NYC's Division of AIDS Ser-



a means of disciplining the obstreperous. The administrative practices of screening people out of the system because of, say, an error in paperwork or conflicting statements during interrogation are not merely the consequence of inaccuracy in a cumbersome bureaucracy. Rather, secrecy, intimidation and red tape are adaptive patterns designed to inhibit completion of the application for relief and facilitate arbitrary rejections and terminations.

Anyone in the HIV community who has applied for relief through So-

vices also takes about three months to get financial assistance to those who apply. In both cases it's usually because of either a "backlog" or bureaucratic bungling. A poor person with AIDS with no financial resources will have a difficult time holding out for three months without shelter, without medical attention, without regular meals, etc. while the government tries to get the paperwork together. It's criminal that many people die before they get the financial assistance to which they are entitled.

A person with AIDS or ARC who wishes to quit their job and live on a supplemental budget of about \$1,000 to \$1,800 per month, can do so if they meet the relief agencies' requirements for disability due to AIDS/ARC. In order to avoid the problems of negotiating with the relief agency, personnel or caseworkers help can be obtained from Gay Men's Health Crisis, if you have registered, or through Community Health Project's Financial Advocate, if you are a CHP client. GMHC will give clients a package of information with telephone numbers of all of the agencies available to people with AIDS/ARC, and some forms to complete, and this package of information is free. The Financial Advocate at Community Health Project, a soul of confidentiality, knows the government entitlement programs well and can provide valuable information for those who wish to apply.

These programs can make life a lot easier for people who successfully negotiate their way through the system. It takes about six months to get settled down with checks arriving monthly. Giving up a job isn't so bad, either. Many people return to school or work part-time, others devote much of their time to working with activist organizations such as ACT UP, or helping out GMHC, Body Positive or PWA Coalition. But, these programs are not for everyone, so consultation with someone who knows them well, and can give good financial advice to PWAs and PWRCs, is very important before applying.

A Guide to Government Entitlement Programs for People with HIV-Disease

ADAP, 1-800-542-2437, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, is one of the easiest programs to get on if you have HIV-disease. Armed with an ADAP card you can receive AZT, bactrim, pentamidine and alpha interferon free of charge at participating pharmacies in New York State. It takes about two weeks to get the card, and GMHC should have applications, or can tell you how to get one.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) half-fare card will

save you on bus and subway fare, and trips to Jones Beach and the Hamptons. Complete the form provided by GMHC (or they'll tell you where to get one), have your doctor complete the other half of the form and send it to the address as directed. You get the card in about two weeks.

New York State Disability, 1-718-802-6964, will process your disability claim if you meet their requirements. If you think you qualify, talk to your doctor and consult GMHC's entitlements package. Request a form from

See LIVING WITH AIDS on page 54



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ENTERING THE 90S

we look back on a decade in which we were all hit by a steam locomotive. We didn't even see it coming, so busy were we bouncing to the disco beat and exercising the sexual freedom we thought we'd won. But reality raced in and smashed our glitter ball. Soon, we found ourselves living in hell.

Yet, something else occurred. We discovered each other in ways we hadn't before. We got ourselves together, thought things out and realized what was actually going on around us. For the first time in years, many of us began making collective decisions about our own fates. And things would never be the same.

As we enter the 90s there is much to look forward to. Communities have organized and, to some degree, joined forces. We're stronger, louder, more visible. And we're not going away.

On the following pages, a handful of people from within the lesbian and gay community talk about what they think will happen in the 90s or at least what they'd like to see. Some give an analysis of the mechanics of the movement in the next decade. Others simply toss off a funny line. But what they all have in common is the fact that each of them will be doing much of the work that's to be done in the 90s, whether that means being an openly gay stand-up comic or founding a lesbian and gay research center.

The people represented here are only the tip of the iceberg in a community overflowing with diverse talents and capabilities. If we at *OutWeek* had to pick even one person from every field that gay men and lesbians contribute to, we'd have to publish a book. The men and women on the following pages are simply a few individuals; a tiny fraction of a varied and great people.

—Michelangelo Signorile



Michael Wakefield



Michael Wakefield

"I think the battle between family, religion and respectability and homoeroticism will become even more fierce. For that reason we have to have more celebratory gay cultural work with the erotic image as the center; and this is as true for women as for men."

The 90s is going to be the decade of gay and lesbian research centers, both at universities and in grassroots archives and museums. The importance of these are seen not just by our own communities, but we're also being seen by the rest of the world as valid intellectual communities. That can be a double-edged sword because grassroots contact could be lost. Therefore we have to keep supporting our own projects."

—Joan Nestle, historian and co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives



"Jimmy Somerville's new LP, *Read My Lips* (which recently went gold in England), and the title track—inspired by his U.K. ACT UP commitments—promises to be a huge international hit. Unlike the dreariness of Tracy Chapman and all the other earnest folkies so overrated in the 80s, it combines a right-on message with a right-on beat. In fact, disco looks set to return in the 90s, as delirious as it ever was. Chic, Lolita Holloway and Dan Hartman are all working on new projects after a long hiatus. In England, indie bands like Happy Mondays (today's equivalent of the Smiths) are trading in their jangly guitars and putting out twisted acid-disco records. The 90s are going to be a new age, but instead of being earnest and granola they're going to be a glittering and dizzy party like no other—with no one turned away at the door."

—The Fabulous Pop Tarts,
musicians/performers

"My great ambition is to have Lucy's time slot Monday's at 8:00. I just look at the TV set and visualize: Monday's at 8. Maybe by 1995. You know Lucy didn't become Lucy until she was 42, so I have a couple of years to be a great lady of TV. I just hope the public of the 90s will accept that the new Lucy is a man. If they could swallow a TV show such as *All* where the star is a puppet, what's so hard about having a leading lady with a dick?"

—Charles Busch, theatrical producer,
director, writer, actor



"I think I've done all I can to participate with the gay and lesbian communities, and now it's time to go to those organizations that are traditionally heterosexual. For instance, there is a lack of Black lesbian and gay presence in organizations like the NAACP. Once we establish those necessary bonds within our own communities we'll then start to make inroads into the larger communities outside the gay and lesbian communities. It's part of my personal agenda."

—Essex Hemphill, poet



Michael Wakefield



Darlene/PhotoGraphics

"Activism. As a whole we are arising out of our apathy and complacency as we enter the 90s. There's the militant right, the pro-lifers, the gay-bashers, the Asian-bashers and people like Jesse Helms telling us what is art. It's coming closer and closer to each of us. We must move. We must *all* become activists. And I think we will."

In the body-building world, one of the biggest forms of activism recently was world class body builder Bob Paris coming out. He did this at the height of his career. And it was needed. Young people must have the role models. They need to see that there are athletes who are gay, politicians who are gay, people in the arts who are gay. Hopefully, many more professional people will come out in the 90s. I think it's part of the activism I'm talking about."

—Kitty Tsui, author; editor;
bronze medalist, women's physique,
Gay Games II



Michael Wakefield

"Reclaiming the gay past holds immense potential importance for everyone, not just for gay people. We need to recapture our antecedents in as much detail as possible because we need to better understand what definitions were once employed to 'explain' our existence, what forces were brought to bear to control our behavior and what strategies our predecessors used to cope with those forces and proceed with their lives. We also need to recognize not merely that same-gender sexuality has existed through time and across cultures, but that it has been uncertainly visible, enormously varied, invested in different cultures with different symbolic meanings. We need to learn that nothing connected with human sexual behavior or its categorization, has remained static."

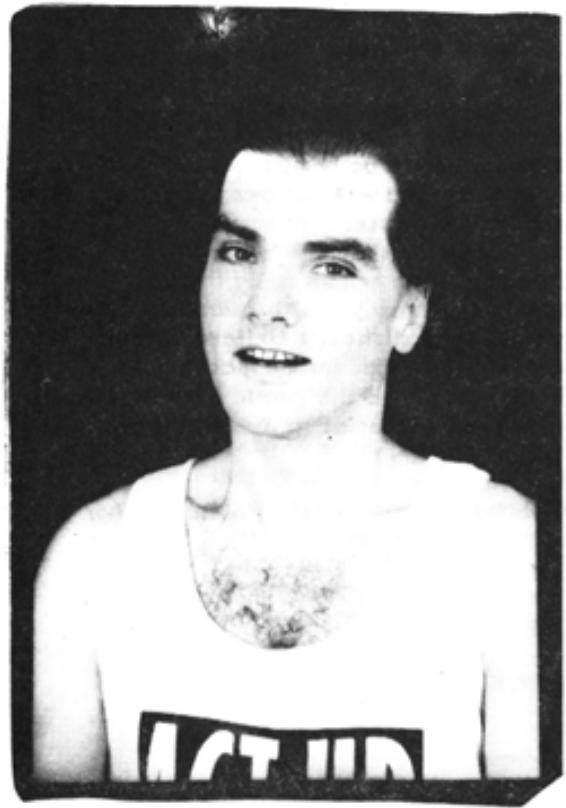
—Martin Duberman, author;
Distinguished Professor of History
at Lehman College;
founder of the Center
for Lesbian and Gay Studies



Michael Wakefield

Publicity-starved Zsa Zsa Gabor will
slap herself.

—Michael Musto, *Village Voice*
columnist, author



Michael Wakefield

"Lesbian theater will become the hot ticket. Tour buses from the flat states will roll into NYC to see blockbuster musicals about behind-the-scenes power struggles at the Michigan Women's Music Festival. WOW will finally be able to pay their Con Ed bill."

—WOW Theater (counter-clockwise
from bottom center): Nancy Swartz, Claire
Olivia Moed, Babs Davy, Diana McWilliams,
Lois Weaver, Mo Angelos



Michael Wakefield

"In the 90s, gay women and men, and our allies, having put an end to AIDS, won't stop there. We've always known that what's best about us is directly attributable to our difference. Having taken real power, we'll use it as the brokers would never imagine. So after the cure? Universal healthcare, shelter, fill in the blanks. We'll have learned that it's not enough that a society tolerate difference: You have to actively support it. And we will."

—Jim Eigo, writer and AIDS activist

"There are a lot of difficult battles ahead around AIDS as the extent of the epidemic becomes evident. We'll organize a stronger movement, not just among gays and lesbians but among all people affected by AIDS—IV drug users, people of color, African-Americans, Latinos.

Some people see domestic partnership as the big issue in the gay and lesbian community but I think [the concept] must be far more expanded. The state should not be sanctioning any relationships, straight or gay. All the trappings of heterosexism—the nuclear family and traditional ideas of love, marriage and sex—must be smashed. Before AIDS I think the lesbian and gay movement and the women's movement were bringing into question the nature of traditional relationships. We have to continue that."

—Joan Gibbs, staff attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights



Michael Wakefield



Darlene/PhotoGraphics

"I think gay literature will finally be under the control of gay writers. Many of us are now out and not making any bones about it. We're expecting the literary establishment not to be homophobic. We confront them. And with our own lesbian, gay and feminist presses they can't shew us off.

I bought a shotgun for the 90s. I love shotguns. It's a self-affirming thing. In my family the men got shotguns and the women got dishes. I believe in self-defense. I don't let anyone fuck with me. If I could have had the gun in the 80s, I'd have used it. Imagine it: dykes with guns. That'll scare 'em."

—Dorothy Allison, author

"In the 1990s the AIDS crisis is going to impact globally and we're going to finally realize the extent of the epidemic. At the same time the Latino gay and lesbian community is going to finally come forward and cease being invisible, both within Latino society and U.S. society. The crisis is now making them come out and assume a voice and take leadership. They're saying 'We are here! You have to listen to us!' It's a good by-product of a very bad situation. And it's already beginning to happen."

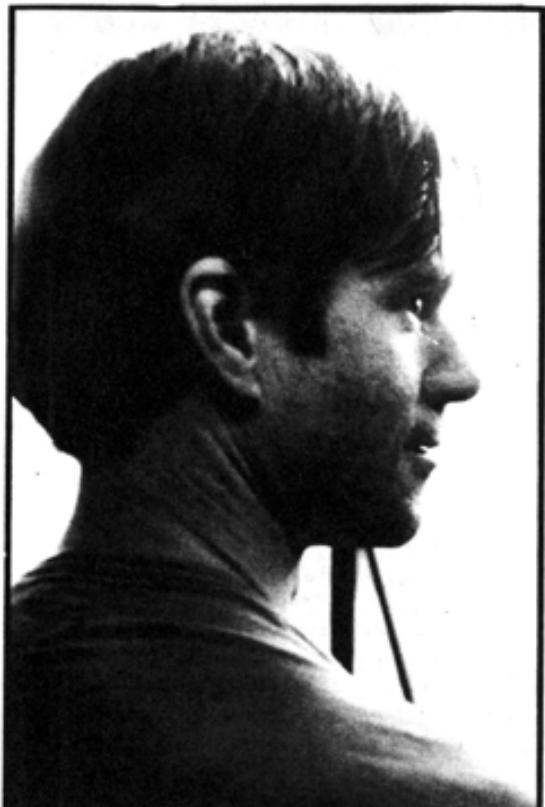
—Ernesto de la Vega, Director of AIDS in the Americas at The Panos Institute



Michael Wakefield

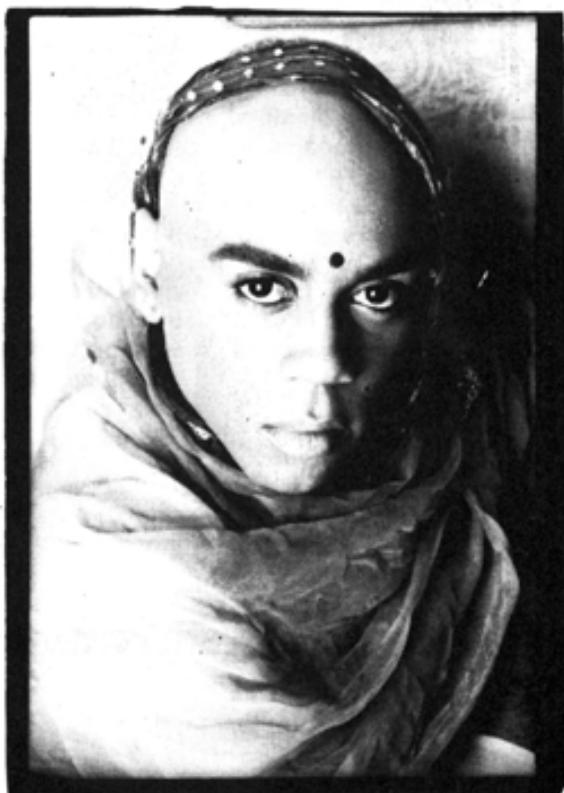
"I think doors are opening up for us in Hollywood. I'm doing what I want to do: big budget films about marginal subjects and low budget films about mainstream subjects. I hope that will continue."

—Gus Van Zant, director of *Drugstore Cowboy* and *Mala Noche*



"I do believe the 90s are going to be more feminine. Earth is a woman and she's going to be ruling again. The 90s are just the start of it. The entire next century is the age of the Goddess again. There was a time, you know, when goddesses were running things, and we're coming back to that. This is going to be an age where sensitivity, intuitiveness and spirituality are more powerful than braun or brute force."

—RuPaul, performer



Michael Wakefield

"Already there's a slew of feminist lesbian singers coming through and hitting the top 40. I don't think homosexuality will be such a no-no in music as we enter the 90s. Music has always led people in different directions, and it lends them to experimentation. I think straight men, for instance, want to have gay men to bounce things off of, to get ideas from. A lot of gay music transcends gay/straight stereotypes. I'm hoping we'll see more wild, colorful acts and lots of experimentation, without any sort of categories or boundaries. I hope people will be less uptight."

—Larry Tee, deejay



Michael Wakefield



Michael Wakefield

"In the 90s we'll work toward expanded recognition of our families and our relationships through domestic partnership ordinances and judicial decisions, as well as toward more widespread recognition of our civil rights. Our cause has a *moral* force to it which the legal system cannot forever ignore. We must push it and mold it and shape it."

—Bill Rubenstein, staff counsel,
American Civil Liberties Union,
Lesbian and Gay Rights Project

"I'm very excited. We've got a new mayor. We've elected a lot of liberal and progressive politicians to other positions. It's a new team with a new agenda. One of the things I'm looking forward to and I know is going to happen is that we'll see appointments of lesbians and gay men to visible positions throughout the administration. That's key to everything else."

—Barbara Turk, senior advisor to David Dinkins and a member of the mayoral transition team



Jill Posener/Stormy Leather



Michael Wakefield

"We're going to start talking about what we do instead of who we supposedly are. Don't say 'I'm an S/M lesbian,' when you could be saying, 'I fantasize eating out my manicurist on the bathroom floor with her mouth gagged by a rubber ball,' or, 'I pinch my nipples when I masturbate until they're hard as points,' or, 'Fist me until the sweat drips off my lips.' Isn't that much more enlightening?"

—Susie Bright, author,
editor of *On Our Backs*

"Stars of TV and film will continue crawling back to Broadway. John Travolta and Sylvester Stallone will star in the revival of *La Cage Aux Folles*. Also Jack Lord from *Hawaii Five-O* will play Papa Rose in the all male version of *Gypsy*.

"An extra-terrestrial will contact Earth via the party lines. His first question to us will be, 'Hi, what are you wearing?' We'll then ask him, 'How big is your penis?' and he'll reply, 'Which one?'

Bowing to popular demand, a 97-year-old Bob Hope will ask us to replace Brooke Shields on his annual Christmas Special."

—Funny Gay Males, comedians (l. to r.) Jaffe Cohen, Danny McWilliams, Bob Smith



Jim Marks



Michael Wakefield

"I see us growing into a movement that has fully-staffed organizations in every state. There are going to be some real big battles on local referendums and gay rights bills. These traditional values coalitions will keep springing up to battle us and we'll have to fight. But I also see lots of non-gay support for the gay movement. I think that this next decade is going to be much like the 60s: tumultuous and exciting. A lot's going to happen. By the end of the decade I'm hopeful that we'll have a federal gay rights bill."

—Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director,
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force



Gay Cable Network

THURSDAYS

Pride & Progress

10:30 pm

- Gay Week in Review
- Act-Up
- GCN Close-Up
- Sports
- Lavender Health

11:00 pm

The Right Stuff

- Naming Names
- All About Women
- Media Watch
- Staying Out
- Around the Country
- Razor Sharp

SUNDAYS

Men & Films

11:30 pm

Reviews of male erotica along with interviews behind the scenes with film stars

MONDAYS

Be My Guest

10:00 pm

Sybil Bruncheon hosts a panel game show with surprise guests.
Frankie Loves Johnny An original gay soap opera.

Gay Cable Network

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Celebrating our 7th year.

Prime Time
Diane, pg. 62

STORM CLOUDS OVER WASHINGTON

New Dimensions

THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND THE NEWS

AIDS Crisis:
Special Report, pg. 52

SEX FOR TRADE

Lightning strikes as shocking new revelations of gay sex scandals and political manipulations rock the nation's capitol

Seeking the gospel truth, brothers and sisters? Seek no more.

Billing itself as "the psychology behind the news," *New Dimensions* is a far-right glossy knock-off of *Time* and *Newsweek*. Obsessed with gays, guns and the government, the editors of this news-monthly see Americans as victims of leftist "Pavlovian conditioning."

"Militant homosexuals" have gained control of the country and are dictating public policy. Queers are "human evil." AIDS is "an inescapable biological indictment" of homosexuality, and the inclusion of HIV-positive people in the Americans Disabilities Act will force them to hire "AIDS-infected homosexual[s] with bleeding sores."

In what they call true Christian compassion, they say: "Of all the cruelties directed at homosexuals by 'straight' society...the greatest cruelty is to accept homosexuality as a normal, alternative lifestyle."

Aren't you glad someone is setting us straight?

—Rick Sugden



"I originally came up with the idea a few years ago when I got a really crummy calendar," says Aldo Hernandez, one of the members of the activist group ART +, which fights homophobia, AIDSphobia and censorship in the arts. The group collaborated to produce *MILITANT EROTICISM (ART +)*, a calendar for 1990.

Featuring twelve artists, the calendar depicts various sexual images, and a blurb in the back explains that "militant eroticism is a philosophy of action exploring our gay and lesbian sexuality thru art, politics and most importantly our personal lives." But Hernandez puts it all in simpler terms: "The calendar is something informative, interesting, entertaining and sexy to look at."

And, of course, the calendar is also a wealth of all that extremely pertinent information that the 90s queer will want to know, such as: the day ACT UP/San Francisco shut down the Golden Gate Bridge (January 31, 1989), The Connie Girl's birthday (July 27, 1967) and the day Milton Berle first flashed his dick (July 12, 1903).

MILITANT EROTICISM (ART +) is available at A Different Light and most other bookstores, or by mail order: check or money order for \$13 to ART+Positive, 429 West 44th St., #2B, NY, NY 10036.

—M.S.



OUT OF MY HANDS

BY BRADLEY BALL

Dear Brad:

Like so many people I never thought I'd be writing to you but things have really gotten out of hand around here. One night a few weeks ago my manager and her lover were going to see a show in my neighborhood so I invited them to stop by our place beforehand for cocktails. When I showed them into the living room I realized with horror that, once again, my lover, Avery, had left his running shoes in the middle of the floor even though I've asked him time and time again not to do so. Nobody said anything but I know they both noticed. (How could they not? Avery has size 12 feet and those shoes could transport an entire village of refugees through rough waters.) I was so furious I couldn't think of anything else and after they left, a full 27 minutes before they had to, I asked Avery if he was trying to destroy my career. He swore it was just an accident and promised to phone my manager and explain everything if that would help the situation. I told him not to do me any favors, just to keep his damn shoes in the closet from now on.

The next morning, while Avery was taking his shower, I went to make breakfast and saw that he had left all of the dishes in the sink from the night before, knowing full well that I hate to face a messy kitchen first thing in the morning.

Grudgingly, I loaded up the dishwasher and turned it on and Avery start-

ed screaming from the bathroom that I was scalding him. I replied that if he hadn't neglected his chores in the first place this wouldn't have happened and I decided to get breakfast downtown.

That night, after work, I tripped over his running shoes and crashed into the glass panel of our wall unit which shattered into a million pieces. I swept up the broken glass and put a few shards in his shoes. Avery claimed that I deliberately set out to cripple him which is, of course, nonsense. I explained that I just wanted to teach him a good lesson about the importance of tidiness and had assumed that he, like everybody else, always shook out his shoes before putting them on in case brown recluse spiders had gotten inside during the night. He said that was the most ridiculous thing he'd ever heard but I told him he wouldn't think it was so ridiculous if he'd ever seen what happens to people who get bitten by those spiders and he said that it wasn't spiders he was afraid of. Then he limped out of the house and went to stay with his sister and her husband. I thought she'd get fed up with his sloppy habits in a couple of days and send him back to me but so far that hasn't happened. Last night I swallowed my pride and called him up and told him how wretched and lonely I've been without him. I said if he'd just come home I'd be willing to accept his apology. He slammed the receiver down in my ear. Brad, I can't

help it but I still love that man, in spite of the way he's treating me. Do you think I should make another attempt to get him back or have I lost him for good?

—Wretched and Lonely
Without Him

Dear Wretch:

I don't know if it's your letter or just the season itself but I can't help but be reminded of the Ash Wednesday of 1986. Oh well, that is, I suppose, another story. Or maybe it's not...entirely. We all of us come together, in one way or another, and we all of us eventually come apart, in one way or another, and in between a lot of promises get made and a lot of expectations get raised and sooner or later they all result in a lot of broken glass and tearful telephone calls. And maybe you have lost him for good. And maybe nobody else will ever come along and you'll be alone for the rest of your life. And maybe that's not so bad. Maybe you can attempt to sublimate the loneliness by working late or getting involved in community activities or taking a course at night school or, I don't know, maybe writing a column for a magazine. Of course you'd still have to come back to an empty home at the end of the day but maybe you can fill that home with books, with shelves and shelves of books. Maybe you can read books about people whose lives are even more arid and desolate than your own. You know, *Day of the Locust* is being reissued for its 50th anniversary of publication. I'd let you borrow my copy of *Play it as it Lays* but I've been forced to institute a strict policy against loaning out Joan Didion books ever since somebody lost my copy of *Miami* on the subway. I guess the point is that with books as well as with lovers, you can't expect to keep them around for too long. Happy New Year! ▼

Editors' Note: Most readers by now know of the power struggle occurring regarding this box. We like to use it as a humorous place filled with funny tidbits so that readers may have a few chuckles, while Mr. Ball insists on taking this space for the personal whims of his increasingly lengthy column. You will also notice that we are gaining ground, as this space is opening up a bit. We know that exposing people is the only way to root out their shamelessness. Therefore we'd like to print here part of a correspondence that Mr. Ball faxed to us with this week's column:

"I notice, with regard to the insert box, that the ante has been raised. This attempt to take the matter to the public is a pathetically transparent act of desperation and tactically ill-advised. As Miss Jean Brodie, my spiritual role model, would say, 'If scandal is to your taste, Miss Mackay, I shall give you a feast. I have the loyalty of my girls.'

"If I don't speak to you this week (or ever, ever again), enjoy that holiday."



By Michelangelo Signorile

I vividly remember the story about the lesbian columnist and the glossy magazine which, for years, she had loyally plugged.

About two years ago, the magazine hired a writer from a major daily who somehow had a reputation for being a fierce upstart, though he wasn't all that vicious, really. Anyway, he wrote a story profiling the lives of various columnists at the dailies, and for weeks he let on that he'd be revealing lots of facts. One thing he was going to talk about was this certain columnist's lesbianism; her home life, her lover, etc. After all, he was writing about the personal lives—the wives, the husbands, the families—of the other columnists, all of whom are public figures, and he felt that he should be able to write about this particular columnist's life.

But when fact-checkers from the magazine called the columnist's office to make sure everything was correct, she blew a fuse that almost sent her to that Goddess in the sky. She hung up on them, then picked the phone up and dialed the magazine's publisher. It wasn't the first time she'd done such a thing. In fact, she'd spent most of her life having stories that mentioned her sexuality killed. You'd think she'd just come out, brave the storm and deal with it rather than live such a nightmare where she had to spend so much time covering her tracks. But, apparently, it's more important to her to stay in hiding, even though she's now pushing 70 and sits in a seat of power.

Anyway, the columnist told the publisher to take out all references in the story alluding to her lover and her home life. And he—remembering all those almost weekly mentions she gave

his publication—took his pen and cut it.

I tell this story to illustrate the art of story cutting and killing; an art which, in New York City publishing, is more fascinating, more intriguing and ultimately more telling than the writing itself.

Of course, it's not the actual act of cutting, but rather the reason behind it, that is most interesting. In New York, stories are cut and killed every day. The reasons are varied (no space, bad story, etc.), but much of the time it has to do with the power-hungry editor's own personal, social and/or professional agenda, and the favors he/she owes to friends, business associates and others he/she needs to kiss up to.

Around the time of ACT UP's highly-controversial action at St. Patrick's Cathedral (which the group took a press beating for), two major magazine pieces about the activist group were killed. One, at the homophobic *Vanity Fair*; the other at the dreary, patronizing and equally queer-hating *New York*. In both cases the writers had been

The art of story cutting and killing is an art which is more fascinating, more intriguing than the writing itself.

working on the stories for quite some time.

When I called editor Ed Kosner's office at *New York* I was told, "We don't discuss internal decisions." Editor-in-chief Tina Brown's PR people at *Vanity Fair* never returned my calls. Meanwhile, I'd heard many unsubstantiated and unconfirmed stories and rumors about why the stories were killed: 1) That the infamous lesbian columnist mentioned above, herself upset with ACT UP (she even later expressed her anger at the church action in her column), made one of her kill-a-story calls to have the piece cut from *VF*; 2) that *New York* wanted a story about " yuppie gay activists" and that the piece handed in by the writer just didn't fit the bill; 3) that *New York's* Kosner, who spent the entire decade kissing up to Ed Koch (an enemy of ACT UP), was furious about the cathedral action, and thought it offended the

Cardinal and Catholics too much for him to run a story on the group; 4) that Kosner just felt the story was too "gay" for *New York*. (The interesting thing about *New York* was that the story, which I'm told was quite sympathetic to the group, was killed *after* it was handed in.)

Word filtering down from inside *Vanity Fair*, however, suggests that Brown killed the piece after learning that *New York* and *Rolling Stone* were planning stories (*New York*, too, could very well have killed the piece after they found out that it was being done elsewhere). This is common practice in the mag biz, and, of course, even in publishing, it's business as usual when it comes to the AIDS crisis. Perhaps if Tina Brown weren't so busy licking Gayfryd Steinberg's ass, she'd have discovered this story a long time ago. But this isn't even the issue. The fact is that this is a life or death situation. The fact is that this story should be everywhere. The fact is that if it were hundreds of thousands of straight, middle and upper class, white people dying of a disease, *Vanity Fair* and *New York* would have attended to the issue a lot sooner and many times over, NO MATTER WHO THE FUCK ELSE WAS WRITING ABOUT IT.

The fact is that all of the media, so blind and bigoted, have ignored the AIDS crisis for the past ten years. But all of these facts aren't good enough reasons for EDITORS SO CAUGHT UP IN THEIR NAUSEATING SOCIAL SHIT THAT THEY'RE AFRAID OF "BEING SCOOPED" WHEN IT COMES TO A STORY ABOUT ANGRY QUEERS WHO TAKE TO THE STREETS AND JUST WON'T DIE WHILE FIGHTING AN EPIDEMIC OF IMMENSE PROPORTIONS! It's amazing the way these idiots play with our lives, making us some sort of special interest story that's not worthy after it's been somewhere before. And it's all bullshit! There are a million different ways to write this story, a million different approaches to it.

But no. We die, and Tina Brown and her kind worry about getting "scooped" on our horrific tragedy and the ways we're fighting back trying to save our lives. ▼

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LIVING WITH AIDS from page 37

NYSD, complete and mail it as instructed. It takes longer to get a reply than they tell you. Most employers in New York State are required to have Disability/Workers Compensation insurance, but some insurance companies, most notably Zurich American, tend to jerk people around. NYSD is there to enforce the rules and require the insurance carrier to pay, if you qualify.

The Human Resources Administration of New York City, Division of AIDS Services, 11 West 13th Street, provides assistance with rent, utilities, food and more, and they are more generous than most other programs providing cash benefits. Despite the inefficiency and mismanagement of DAS, and complex rules for qualifying for financial assistance (for example, you should ask for "Home Care" whether you really need it or not), most of the caseworkers there are sensitive to PWAs and PWRCs. No matter how sensitive and nice they are, it's still going to take three months to get a dime from these people. Screening at DAS is pretty simple, just ask for "Home Care" and return the M11Q document detailing your AIDS related illnesses which you and your doctor will complete. You'll also need a copy of your lease, a Social Security Card or something semi-official with your SS number on it and a couple of other documents (like rent delinquency notices). Financial need must be demonstrated—but that's easy for most people. Again, three months is a long time for most people burdened with high medical costs and costs of living. GMHC or the Financial Advocate at CHP can help.

Medicaid is crucial for people without health insurance. It's the ticket to some treatment, but Medicaid is hard to get these days. The typical jerk around is to invite an applicant to the Medicaid office on West 34th Street and then send them home because they "didn't have an appointment." In other cases Medicaid insists that the card be issued by Social Security or DAS. SS and DAS usually never produce more than a Tempo-

rary Medicaid Card (good for two weeks), thus the applicant must pad downtown to the SS office at Federal Plaza or to the DAS office every two weeks for the new Temp. Card.

Social Security claims can be made by telephone, but for faster service masochists can get an interview at the SS office at 26 Fed. Plaza. There are two programs at SS to which one can apply: Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income. Either way, it's a minefield. The requirements for both programs are strict, and SS people are really nosy. The wait for financial assistance, a "presumptive payment," is three months and final approval or rejection of the case is made about three months later. If it's approved, the applicant begins to receive monthly Social Security checks from either SSD or SSI based on previous income, until the case is reviewed again (usually in about three years), or until they find a reason to stop the payments. This business with SS is tricky so counseling from GMHC or CHP is very important. ▼

OUT TAKES from page 27

discrimination based on their sex, arguing that had either of them been a woman, the license would have been issued.

According to the Chicago Sun Times, gay activists responded to the commission's ruling by vowing to get legislation introduced in the General Assembly this year that would grant gay and lesbian partnerships the same benefits as marriage.

Other activists have said they may challenge the state in court.

"I find it ironic that the commission appointed to address issues of discrimination in Illinois is avoiding them," said Tim Drake, legislative director of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Wockner and Varnell, who are not lovers, say they will not appeal their case into the courts because they believe a "committed couple" should pursue the issue.

They also said it had complicated their lives as journalists to simultaneously be newsmakers. ▼

Film

A Blaze so Hoary

Blaze. Produced by Gil Friesen and Dale Pollock. Written and directed by Ron Shelton. Touchstone.

by Bruce C. Steele

Credibility is inversely related to a movie's budget—of this I am increasingly convinced. The more filmmakers spend, the less I buy. Take for example *Blaze*, a slick, big-budget biopic about the affair between crackpot Louisiana Governor Earl K. Long and stripper Blaze Starr during 1959-60.

Earl was Huey P.'s little brother, and he took Huey's populism and cronyism to dizzying new heights of audacity and decadence. He was the epitome of that bayou-state phenomenon now best represented by David Duke: the openly corrupt politician who captures the imagination of the common voter by loudly embracing common ignorance.

In one scene based on a real incident, the governor runs amok in the state legislature, and the film briefly evokes the mesmerizing madness that the real Earl embodied. But *Blaze*, believe it or not, is a love story. Writer-director Ron Shelton's interest lies not in the committee room, but in the bedroom. The creator of *Bull Durham*, Shelton is an old-fash-



See *BLAZE* on page 69

Governor Earl K. Long (Paul Newman) and Blaze Starr (Lolita Davidovich)

My Left Foot. Directed by Jim Sheridan. Produced by Neal Pearson. Written by Shane Connaughton and Jim Sheridan. Miramax.

For a fraction of the *Blaze* budget, two Irishmen and a British actor made the estimable, entirely credible *My Left Foot*, another biopic about a hard-drinking, insolent man, this time with rough edges left intact. Daniel Day Lewis has already been lauded exponentially throughout the English-speaking world—and deservedly so—for his powerful portrayal of Christy Brown, an Irishman with cerebral palsy who learns to paint and write with his foot.

If ever a narrative film argued that society's outsiders should never compromise to gain acceptance, *My Left Foot* is that movie. Christy secures the respect of "normal" people not by noble sacrifice, but by harsh frankness and sheer tenacity. He scorns being treated as a victim and uses his wits and talents to turn himself into a participant and a leader. (When his family is freezing, for example, he cooks up a scheme to steal coal.) Christy asks no special status, only the opportunity to try

and fail and to express his feelings like anyone else.

Lewis knows that the weight of Christy's day-to-day achievement, his constant refusal to settle into the role of decorous cripple, will earn him more than enough admiration, so the actor focuses his energies on Christy's fiery emotional life. He drinks, picks fights, has tantrums, makes lewd remarks, tells people to "fuck off" and makes both touching and rude plays for the women he fancies. Christy's crassness and unmitigated passions shut out melodrama and make the movie stinkingly human and engaging.

The stage background of first-time filmmaker Jim Sheridan, who co-wrote the screenplay with another Irish playwright, Shane Connaughton, shows through. His inconspicuous but affecting direction filters feelings through the well-drawn characters (played by a uniformly brilliant cast), rather than milking the many highly-charged incidents in the story for cheap sympathy. An inspired framing device—from which the story is told in flashback—introduces a nurse whose reactions to Christy parallel our own, and provides for an upbeat ending at the same time it offers Christy's personal condemnation of sentimentality. —Bruce C. Steele

A Real Dog



"FORGET THE BOX OFFICE, RANDY. THEY CAN'T TOUCH ME."

Feet Samuels (Randy Quaid) and Hortense Hathaway (Madonna Ciccone)

Bloodbounds of Broadway. Produced and directed by Howard Brookner. Screenplay by Howard Brookner and Colman deKary. Columbia Pictures.

by Karl Soebnlein

The only thing worse than the holiday season are holiday movies. These films bombard us with the seasonal myths of forced cheer and socially sanctioned celebrations. My ideal holiday film is *The Poseidon Adventure*, where a New Year's bash literally gets turned upside down and the "morning after" is one not to be forgotten.

Bloodbounds of Broadway is a film set on New Year's Eve, 1929, "the last big party," the film's narrator tells us. Alluding to the oncoming Depression and setting up what I thought would be an apocalyptic metaphor for today, these hints at meaning unfortunately fade as quickly as bubbles in a champagne glass, although with considerably less excitement.

Based on the stories of Damon Runyon, the mind behind *Guys and Dolls*, *Bloodbounds* travels atmospherically between uptown mansions, downtown speakeasies and Hell's Kitchen gambling dens. Stylistically, the film is the cinematic equivalent of the current Gap ad campaign: stylish, sexually teasing portraits of some of Hollywood's hippest faces (only this time they're in character). Narrated by the occasionally

sharp-tongued Broadway-beat columnist Waldo Winchester (Josef Sommer), the plot weaves through the adventures of a long list of characters with all the complexity of a *Love Boat* episode.

Matt Dillon plays Regret, a womanizing hood who spends the film running from the cops and pursuing Lovely Lou, a cabaret star who spends more time whining and pouting than singing (an attitude heightened by Jennifer Grey's performance, which is more suited to a high school drama club than a prohibition nightclub). At the same time, Feet Samuels (Randy Quaid), a compulsive gambler named for "feet as big as violin cases," is doggedly chasing down riches in poker and crap games, hoping to buy the affections of Hortense Hathaway (played by Madonna, who gets to reject material-girl status for true-blue love). Then there's Handsome Jack (Esai Morales), a vaguely shady character who, when he isn't trying to worm his way into the arms of socialite Harriet MacKyle (Jule Haggerty), tries to score with one flapper after another. His failed attempts provoke the film's bitchiest retort ("I wouldn't talk to you with someone else's mouth"), and the top shock-value event (which I won't reveal, seeing as the film has so few surprises).

We're also treated to the demise of The Brain (Rutger Hauer), the "biggest gambling operator on Broadway," who spends most of the movie bleeding to death in the back of a taxi. The Brain is, in his final hours, tended to by a poor, angelic flower girl (yes, it's that kind of a film), and a grandfatherly Black doctor. One of three African-American faces in the film (the other two are a gaudy street preacher and a slinky mistress), the doctor's presence only serves to reveal just how very white bread this film is. It also calls to mind *The Cotton Club*, a film that, by contrast, acknowledged the cultural diversity of prohibition nightlife.

Given that *Bloodbounds of Broadway* is not about documenting an era realistically, and that as fantasy it tows the straight, white party line, I'm not sure what to make of it all. It has no sense of irony, or even foreboding, merely diluted nostalgia. Director Howard Brookner, whose former efforts include a documentary of William Burroughs, died of AIDS before the film was finished. Perhaps this contributes to the overall feeling of incompleteness.

Ultimately, it doesn't explain the film's resolute heterosexuality: sending all the little couples into the new year on the road to marriage; off to "their little pieces of paradise," as the narrator tells us. For a film directed by a gay man (and acted by so many full and part-time queers), this amounts to another case of the vigilance of the heterosexist Hollywood machine. At least those Gap ads leave their potential for homoeroticism intact, more than I can say for this disappointing film. ▼

Art

Diminished Utopias

Thomas Hart Benton. The Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Ave., (212) 570-3676. Through February 11. His murals can be seen at the Whitney Equitable Center, 787 Madison, (212) 554-1113. Through January 31.

by John Donabue

Thomas Hart Benton's paintings are easy to like. Swirling landscapes of saturated color capture and seduce the eye. The paintings seem simultaneously jewelike and edible. Narrative and mythological, they are easy to understand.

His paintings contain very few straight lines and looking at them might make you a little seasick. I've never seen a corn plant quite as curvaceous as the one in the "Wreck of the Ole '97," 1947. Benton worked from structural models; he'd mold the scene in clay before painting. Many of the paintings look like stills taken from a claymation feature. Everyone has enormous hands.

Most popular between the wars, Benton was heralded as a true American painter, uniquely capturing the land and its people. *Time* magazine put him on its cover in 1934 and he became an art star. Benton spent a lot of time traveling around the country finding the inspiration for his paintings through direct experience. Scenes from his folktale America are varied. In "Struggle for the Wilderness," 1924-26, half naked Indians are slaughtered by the settlers. Blacks work the land in "Cotton Pickers," 1928-29. Billowing black smoke becomes a sign of vitality in "Boontown," 1927-28.

Benton was also an outspoken

homophobe. In 1935, fed up with New York, he abandoned it for the heartland saying the city had lost its masculinity. He described his feelings about museums in the *New York World Telegram*: "Do you want to know what's the matter with the art business in America?...It's the third sex and the museums. The typical museum is run by a pretty boy with delicate wrists and a swing in his gait." These remarks caused an uproar but the pub-

Although he markets himself as the successor to Andy Warhol, Kostabi is really Thomas Hart Benton's pint-sized heir. Their paintings have an eerie similarity. Kostabi uses the same ovoid shapes, the same generic mythology, though his Everyman has a blank face, a more banal existence. The plow has been replaced by a credit card. He could be Benton launched into outer space.

There is, however, little real comparison between the stature of the two artists. The creatures in Kostabi's paintings have no energy, the compositions lack complexity. Kostabi's paintings are drained of life, that's the point, but they barely qualify as cartoons. As a painter, Kostabi's a hack.

Besides being racist, sexist and melodramatic, Benton's work can be dynamic. Americans loved it for a while. After World War II, the art world discovered Abstract Expression. As Benton's popularity waned he painted commissions for department stores and social clubs. It's hard to believe he lived until 1975.

In many ways the Thomas Hart Benton exhibition is as timely as any in town. Today no discussion of art can avoid the issue of censorship. Benton gives us a look at one possible acceptable art. Harry Truman called him the "best damned painter in America." These paintings of a mythic America populated with settlers, farmers and a few smashing nudes set in a lush landscape display an American ideal. Yet, they are cropped, diminished utopias. An earthy regionalist, Benton never captured the total picture. Like the sculptural models he painted from, these all-American paintings are staged. They are made of clay. ▼



Bootleggers, from the mural series *The American Historical Epic*, 1927, by Thomas Hart Benton

Egg Tempera with resin oil glazes on canvas mounted on cradled masonite

Photo: Whitney Museum of American Art

licity-seeking Benton had been creating and expecting upsets for years.

His outburst brings to mind another self-promoting artist. In March, 1989 *Vanity Fair* quoted the painter Mark Kostabi as saying: "These museum curators, that are for the most part homosexuals, have controlled the art world in the 80s. Now they're all dying of AIDS, and although I think it's sad, I know it's for the better because homosexual men are not actively participating in the perpetuation of human life."

Women on the Urban Edge

Jai Jai Noire, Mermaid Tattoo and Linda Perry of San Francisco's underground women's rock scene

b. Noelle Hanrahan

I'm dancing barefoot heading for a spin, some strange music draws me in, makes come on like some heroine

—Patti Smith, *Dancing Barefoot*

Our inspirations are the goddesses of amperage, wattage and voltage

—MUDWIMMIN

Every bruising and raucous band of women in San Francisco and probably the world over has disappeared like flashpaper under the weight of anonymity. Sometimes we are lucky and they leave an LP or 45 in their wake that makes a lifelong impact on some soon to be rock 'n roll musician's brain.

For at least a decade San Francisco has cultivated one of the most vibrant electric fueled underground women's post-punk rock 'n roll scenes.

At the end of Haight St. in the famed Haight-Ashbury district is an eclectic neighborhood leather bar called



SHOW US YOUR THIGHS

Victoria Schwartz, Tracy Oklahoma, Nancy Kravitz and Cathy Curphy of Mermaid Tattoo

Photo: Robert D.

Nightbreak. Every Wednesday night, in a weekly live music ritual, the club transforms itself into *Female Trouble*. Playing host to the farthest reaches of women's dreams and screaming electric guitar runs, women here live out their aspirations and feed their appetite for ferocious, unrelenting music. The crowd is mixed: buzz blondes in leather studs, band members, black-clad NY art school types sporting straight cut henna laced hair, generic suburban dykes on the prowl, a few land women in hiking boots and shorts and the best hip hop dancer I've ever seen—a punk in John Lennon specs with pink two tone fuzz for hair. Out of this cathartic rehearsal induced frenzy has developed a new generation of underground women's bands, bands like Mermaid Tattoo, Linda Perry (and the recently formed 4 Non-Blondes) and Jai Jai Noire. Each band has a story, but first let me tell you about their foremothers.

Post-punk Patti Smith changed the world. In 1979 S.P.'s The Contradictions emerged as the leaders of the first wave of San Francisco based women post-punk bands. The Contradictions had stamina, professional ability and were visionaries screaming bloody murder for the entire course of their existence, blazing the way for today's bands. Other bands included Wilma (radical feminist who set Monique Wittig to music), G.O.D. and Kathrine and the Varve. The women who survived and those who didn't are easily the stuff of legend, laboring in obscurity and in the shadow of the Dead Kennedy's, Flipper, The Mutants, Tuxedo Moon and The Nuns. Traces of stories, photographs and graffiti document the impact of women converging to upset convention. Patti Smith set the stage and these women expanded on it, their work becoming their lives. In order to create aggressive electric music, living on an urban edge was a necessity, the politics crucial and implicit. Some women turned tricks as dominatrixes to get by, others lived off borrowed money and some lived off borrowed time. These are the legends which literally and figuratively gave birth to a scene.

Some bands working today's scene deserve mention. Industrial Rainforest, featuring Slade's dramatic tom-based cadences, evokes mystical and spiritual images laced with challenging political analysis. The She Devils are a tight and aggressive rock band that transcends the self immolating aspects of punk. And MUDWIMMIN, who appear at the base of a controlled population sedated by TV blue light, stir anarchy in the face of social convention, unwilling to fold into

prefabricated society.

These are women who live on the outskirts of decorum and they push limits. By day they are packing and shipping clerks for Crown Books, living on year-old disability checks, working at Radio Shack's customer service counter and waitressing at Spaghetti Western. By night they live at rehearsals and occasionally burst on to a stage in a dimly lit bar.

Three bands currently in action and carrying on the tradition deserve special attention—as well as major label cash and distribution. Jai Jai Noire is persistent, dedicated and one hell of a songwriter and guitarist. Constantly on the move she forms bands, cuts demos and hawks her product all the while living off the beaten track in Concord, CA, home to some of the most oppressive laws in the land. Noire is known for her political activism challenging the insidious right wing at every turn. Her sound recalls the Police when they were still a scruffy punk band emerging in the wake of the Sex Pistols. Mixed into a wildly driving energy is just enough reality to wake anyone out of a total coma. Noire's lyrics are not suffocated by the enormity of political repression. Wrapped in reggae rhythms and growling vocal treatment, her music takes Buddy Holly on a ride into the 90s.

Mermaid Tattoo, named in honor of the nine-inch tattoo that graces bassist Nancy Kravitz's thigh, is fronted by Victoria Schwartz who plays lead guitar and pulls in and out of great psychedelic effects, creating a great groove out of a minimum number of strums and notes. The band includes Tracy Oklahoma on banjo, the aforementioned Nancy Kravitz (who doubles as the promoter of the club that is the creative force behind the whole scene), and the former drummer for the She Devils, Cathy Curphey. Displaying ambitious reach, the band is likely to cover just about anything including Charlie Rich. Mermaid Tattoo is at their best when launching into an original, composed and played at break-neck speed. A relatively new band, they are combining the best of the scene and creating a distinctive sound.

With a still-growling, disenchanted whisper backed only by acoustic guitar and reverb, Linda Perry has the best pure raw voice in San Francisco. Recently appearing with the newly formed group 4 Non-Blondes, Perry's talent, if left undiscovered, will be a testament to what total bullshit the music industry really is. In the spring '88 issue of *Puncture*, Terry Sutton hit upon a truism with her comment, "The worst form of discouragement is silence...biased critics aren't music reviewing. They are doing police work." This scene has suffered from this activity for too long. Linda Perry's range of emotion peaks in a musical place that harbors aggressive post-punk rock steeped in counter culture angst, a part of the rock world that most music does not even begin to approach in terms of sheer intensity. With her cryptic and lyrical outpouring of frustration, Perry is creating screaming thunder over an acoustic guitar style carried



PRODUCT OF HER OWN IMAGINATION

Singer/songwriter Linda Perry

Photo: Jessica Tanzer

by an immensely powerful voice. Perry is the sole product of her own imagination and her own creative genius. Brazilian-born, with dreadlocks and a completely deviant approach to anything resembling convention, Linda Perry would be the perfect reality check for a world that is immersed in its all too pretty imagination.

These bands and this scene keeps me haunting Nightbreak for *Female Trouble* on Wednesday nights. Just feeling the sound bounce off of my chest, just giving in to complete anger at the world, gives me the courage to pick myself up and begin the battle again each day against a litany of ills created by capitalist patriarchy. The women who inhabit this club are the anti-thesis to the prescription, and in their behavior lies one of the keys to freedom: Anarchy in the U.S.A. is certainly one place where the revolution ferments. ▼

Nightbreak is located at 1821 Haight St., in San Francisco.

To contact:

Nancy Kravitz/Mermaid Tattoo; 3025 Army St.; San Francisco, CA 94110

MUDWIMMIN; 34 20th St.; San Francisco, CA 94110

Video

Speaking in Tongues

Lesbian Tongues. A Pop Video Production. P.O. Box 60862, Washington, DC, 20039. \$29.95.

by Wickie Stamps

Lesbian Tongues, a glimpse into the lives of strong and extraordinary women, was an opportunity for co-producer Lil Pitcaithly to progress beyond the "it's OK to be gay" films of 15 years ago and create a work that says, "we are more than okay—we are flourishing." In the 90 minute video, cameras slip into the lives of 13 U.S. lesbians meeting such diverse subjects as Barbara Grier, Jewelle Gomez and lesbian dairy goat farmers from the land of "brogans and overalls." All of these women lead poignant lives, some more public than others. The filming of this Pop Video production (a Washington, D.C. based video company), included a trek to a South Carolinian lesbian goat farm—an excursion which filled Lil with trepidation. "Quite frankly, I was not looking forward to tramping out to a goat farm. But, I was pleasantly surprised. The goats were charming, they come when they're called and better behaved than most people!"

Viewing *Lesbian Tongues* is like putting a buttercup of lesbian sexuality under one's chin. Who we are—our sensuality and our history—shines warmly back at us. Affirmations of lesbian passion ripples throughout the video. In front of the camera five couples, most older and in decade long dyads, perform the cherished lesbian ritual of sharing their delicious how-we-met sagas. As they spin their intimate sexual histories, their bond as lovers becomes apparent: they frequently kiss, tug at each other's sleeves to interject a relished detail or chide their more bashful partner. Photographer JEB and her

lover, author Minnie Bruce Pratt, actually choose to stage their interview cuddled in bed—the only place their hectic lives dovetail. One old time butch, complete with shades, cig and deep throat twang, reveled in her pre-Stonewall lust when she revealed the erotic "scams" she used to orchestrate for her partner; sexual scenes in which she'd fem out with garters and

most of us came out not for high faluting political reasons, but simply "because lesbian sex is hot!" (How dare she!) With a similar message, but a divergent style, Joan Nestle, whose voice and demeanor throbbed with sensuality, lured us into our own sensuality. She dug deep into her personal eroticism and, by comments like "I have always enjoyed being made love to with a dildo...and unstrapping my lover from her dildo and going down on her," Nestle unveiled the depth of our eroticism.

The Jewelle Gomez interview offers us all a sprig of hope. Through her coming out story, we grasp that our lesbianism need not always collide with the heterosexual world of our biological families. Beginning with a snapshot of her with her grandmother, she guides us through a feisty coming-out-to-my-family tale. It occurred in a Times Square theater bathroom (which Gomez felt was an apt locale for their opposing worlds to coalesce) where her mom took it upon herself to point out some eye catching graffiti—"dykes unite"—to her daughter. Gomez lassoed this opening by casually retorting that, if she found that graffiti engaging, then perhaps the rubber stamp that Gomez had at home might also strike her mother's fancy. It was then that her grandmother chose to bat back a humorous acknowledgment of her granddaughter's sexual preference. From the nearby stall, her granny's voice piped up, "I already saw it! It says lesbian money!"

But, *Lesbian Tongues'* power is diluted by some shortcomings. Due to waffling technical expertise some interviews are off focus, others have muffled voices and, due to choppy editing, some segments are jarring. A wider range of types of relationships and forms of sexual expressions would have strengthened the piece.

See **LESBIAN TONGUES** on page 69



heels and seduce her lover. Her partner, who had listened attentively to this time-worn tale, bawdily joked that her butch was so good at oral sex she should "get her mouth insured by Lloyd's of London!"

Sexpert Jo Ann Loulan and author/activist Joan Nestle plucked sensuality from the abandoned lot of lesbian passion and held it out to the viewers as key to our survival as sexual beings. With the flair of a stand up comedienne, Loulan wryly commented that, if the truth be known,

Book

How the Other Half Lives

The Assistance of Vice by Roslyn Dane. Banned Books. \$8.95. 168 pp.

by Christopher Davis

I admit my qualifications for reviewing a work of lesbian erotic fiction are meager, but I am interested in work being written by lesbians and I read Roslyn Dane's novel, *The Assistance of Vice*, carefully. Unlike Pat Califia's great collection of short erotic fiction, *Macho Sluts*, which is worth purchasing for the thoughtful introduction on lesbian pornography and S/M alone, *The Assistance of Vice* threads the erotic content through one story, a story that is understandable equally to lesbians and gay men: the destructive power of a severely one-sided relationship.

The narrator's lover, Margaret, is selfish, demanding, critical and non-sexual. "If there were something on television She wanted to watch, get into, Margaret would start a harangue about how She was always watching something instead of talking to her.... But if She came home and Margaret were watching something, well, then that was all right, inviolate." The author succeeds well in making Margaret a thoroughly dislikeable person. A tiny scene when they are at a club and Margaret won't dance—Margaret will never dance—tells much, and when Margaret complains when her lover, who is a photographer, gets up at five in the morning to work in her home studio so she can later visit her cousin who is dying of AIDS, Margaret seems absolutely hateful.

The worst thing about Margaret, though, is that she has lost all interest in sex, at least with her lover. "They could pop pimples on each others backs, She could trim their twat hairs, they shared the worries over money,

career, and sick friends with AIDS, but they did not fuck. When She tried, Margaret would never kiss, and when She moved on her she would never respond." When Margaret arrives home after a six-week absence she at first turns away, and then relents and allows one chaste kiss; it is not the proper time for more, there is never a proper time for Margaret.

I go into this much detail so that the reader of this review will ask: So why do they stay together; why not break up with the bitch [I quote the

THE ASSISTANCE OF VICE



Roslyn Dane

book on "bitch"] and get it over with? Ms. Dane's answer to that question is the strongest part of the novel. She does an admirable job of making it seem right, or at least understandable—which is not the same as explaining it—that someone would stay in such a destructive, unfulfilling relationship. It's not a big part of the book at all, but the reader gets a sense of the power of the habit of a shared life, of fond memories, of nonerotic intimacy.

The erotic content of the novel must be considered too. I am not going to get into a discussion of erotic writing versus pornographic writing (and in any case, I do not consider "pornographic" pejorative). Instead, I

offer three quotes from *Macho Sluts*. "The task of creating high-quality pornography is a challenge worthy of any talented writer. It just isn't that easy to get a reader hopelessly and unforgettable aroused." And "Sadly, a lot of the new lesbian porn (brave as it is) flunks what Dorothy Allison calls 'the wet test.'" And "Feminist erotica" that presents a simplistic view of lesbian sex as two women in love in a bed who embody all the good things the patriarchy is trying to destroy is not very sexy. This stuff reads as if it were written by dutiful daughters who are trying to persuade Mom that lesbian sex isn't dirty, and we really are good girls after all."

Using Califia's comments as guidelines, I can report that for the most part, the erotic portions of *The Assistance of Vice* succeed. Much of it is certainly not something to send your mother to convince her that lesbians are really good girls after all, unless your mother is a great deal more enlightened than most, or has an exceptionally strong heart and a physician nearby just in case. And as for the wet test: Well, I'll pass on that, although I can report that when I discussed this book with a lesbian friend she said I would know it was good if it gave me an erection. "But I'm gay!" I said. "I'm a gay man," I added, in case she had missed the point. "So?" she answered. I'm still thinking about that.

This book does have some problems. The writing is sometimes rough, transitions sometimes abrupt, some of it should have been cut and I do not like stream-of-consciousness passages in italics. However, Ms. Dane did an excellent job of mixing the erotica with the plot, mostly to the detriment of neither. I enjoyed it, and half way through I couldn't wait to find out if Margaret got what she deserved, so I turned to the end to see, and no, I won't tell. ▼

Books

Couching Terms

Being Homosexual: Gay Men and Their Development by Richard A. Isay. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$14.95. 162 pp.

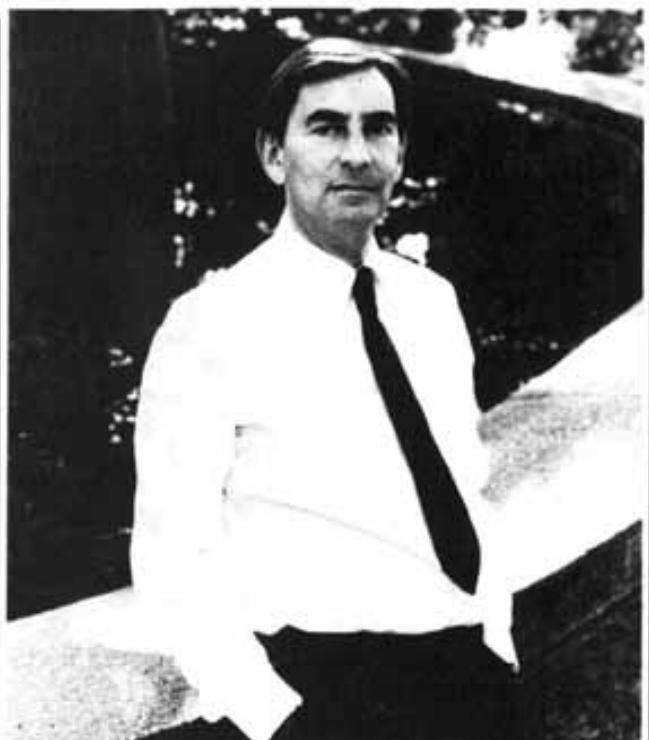
The Psychoanalytic Theory of Male Homosexuality by Kenneth Lewes, Ph.D. Meridian, a division of New American Library. \$10.95. 302 pp.

by Gabriel Rotello

Gays and lesbians have long labored under theories of nature which called us "unnatural," theories of religion which called us "sinners" and theories of morality which pronounced us "immoral." Yet these concepts, tied up as they are in a rapidly retreating tide of nonscientificism, could not in themselves have seriously threatened our eventual liberation. The inexorable progress of humankind away from the irrational and toward the empirical, away from the bigotries of the Inquisition and toward the glories of seekers such as Galileo, might have promised gays a less oppressive future. As the prejudices of the past were blasted away by the forces of reason, the unnatural construction called homophobia should have been an early and easy victim. Alas, such was not the case.

The reason why is amply illustrated by two recent books, *Being Homosexual* by Richard Isay and *The Psychoanalytic Theory of Male Homosexuality* by Kenneth Lewes. These two psychoanalysts, well meaning supporters of their profession, each in his way offers a fatal indictment of psychoanalysis. That indictment essentially states that the 20th century development of psychoanalysis was in error when it proclaimed, with the same quasi-scientific certainty it uses to proclaim anything, that male homosexuality is an illness. It is that proclamation, not that gays are unnatural, sinful or immoral, but that we are "sick," which has done more than anything aside from AIDS to marginalize, oppress and destroy the lives of lesbians and gays in modern times. The Hippocratic maxim to "do no harm" has been so massively violated by psychoanalysts when approaching gays, that even a gentle army of Isays and Lewes couldn't hope to repair the damage. Yet against all odds, and despite the serious omission of lesbianism and lesbians from their studies, they both make a serious attempt.

Isay's anecdotal approach is brief, accessible and to the point. He's a psychoanalyst whose practice contains many gay men who have come to him because of his reputation as someone who doesn't disapprove of or try to change



Richard Isay, M.D.

Photo: Anne Hall

gays. As such, he feels that one of the primary weaknesses of psychoanalysis has been its focus on gays who were unhappy being gay, a focus which would inevitably skew observations and results. To counter such bias he cites brief case histories of well adjusted homosexuals from his practice, and shows how his often lengthy but sympathetic analyses have generated positive therapeutic results.

Despite the author's attempt at serious revisionism, his non-academic approach is unlikely to gain a hearing from dogma-bound theorists. Isay goes into little detail about the bases of the theory he attempts to debunk, nor does he build a coherent theory of his own. A book arguing the case for gay normalcy which mentions the word Oedipal a total of three times can't expect to be taken very seriously by those whose very meal tickets are stamped by Oedipus himself on every conceivable occasion. Yet, the weaknesses of his approach from a classic psychoanalytic standpoint, recommend this book to lay gays who are curious about both their modern oppression and an enlightened analyst's opinion about the relationship between analysis and homosexuality.

Isay is fascinatingly refreshing, for example, on the disputed existence of bisexuality. His conclusion that many bisexuals are really gays in denial may be music to the ears of some gay liberationists. But, he offers solid evidence for the existence of some truly, equally bisexual men, a result

of great political importance. He is similarly enlightening on the subject of the fathers of gay men, maintaining that they often shun gay sons they perceive as unmasculine, which negatively impacts on the ability of those sons to form lasting relationships with men later in life.

Indeed, Isay's theory of straight fathers' discomfort around their gay sons provides an interesting explanation for therapists' traditional observations that gays often have distant, uncaring fathers. His accessible, sympathetic approach may be akin to preaching to the choir, but it can't help but assist those who have been damaged by the homophobic Menges of modern psychoanalysis.

* * * *

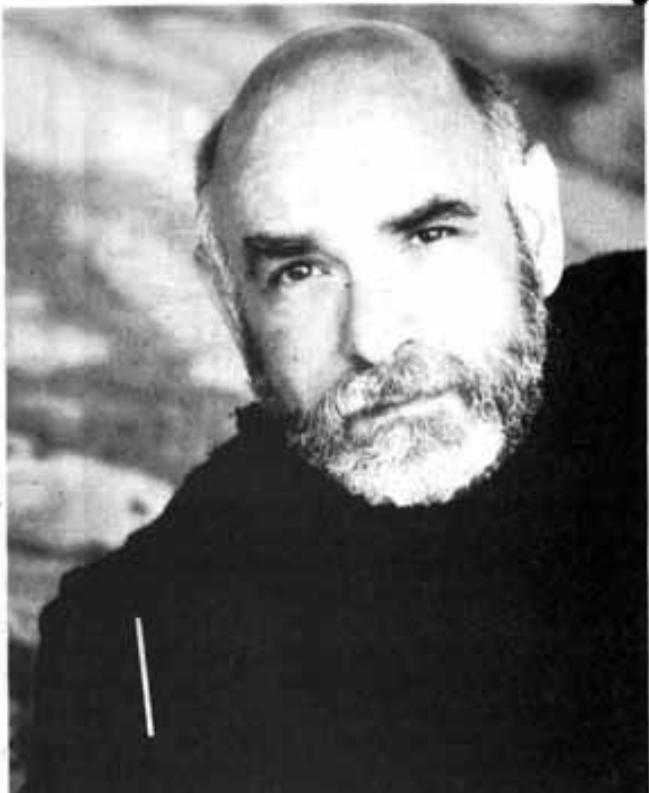
Kenneth Lewes' book differs from Isay's in that its approach meets Freud's successors on the exceedingly thin ice of their own pseudo-scientific conceits. It's a history of the dismal analytic mis-view of homosexuality from Freud to the present by a scholar attempting objectivity about the phenomenon of homosexuality.

Lewes shows that Freud held at least three ambiguous and contradictory opinions about gays and their development, and stated flatly on at least one occasion that homosexuality "cannot be classified as an illness." Yet Lewes clearly shows that the future errors of his discipline can be traced to Freud's opinion that homosexuality represents a deviation from "natural" heterosexuality, an opinion wholly based on social norms and not on empirical evidence.

The history of theory between Freud and Kinsey reads like a farce, with a hodge-podge of conflicting, confusing and contradictory opinions which trip over themselves like Keystone Kops. The plot descends from farce to tragedy only when we arrive at Kinsey's monumental study, the first truly scientific examination of homosexuality. Kinsey's results, still the towering achievement of sexology, flew directly into the face of psychoanalytic theory. This setback marked the turning point at which psychoanalysis departed from the realm of attempted objectivity and, as far as homosexuality is concerned, descended giddily into gibberish. The inability of a supposed science to accommodate demonstrated fact by ignoring it, disputing it or denouncing it, placed that discipline more in the realm of a cult than a science. Despite the author's reluctance to go that far, such is the clear implication of the tale he tells.

Of all the questions Lewes' book raises about psychoanalysis, one of the most disturbing is the failure of analysts to examine how their own prejudices about gays colored their theories. Such prejudices are obvious to even the casual observer of the field, so the fact that they were not obvious, or even acknowledged, by analysts until Kwawer noted them in 1980 is one of the more amazing lapses in a field of amazing lapses.

Even more disturbing is the failure of psychoanalysis to consider how the intense social condemnation of homosexuality may have deeply affected gays, causing much of the gay guilt and pathology noted by the profession. It remains to be seen if the field will ever spend a fraction of the time on this question that it spent spinning fanciful conceits to prove homosexuality an illness.

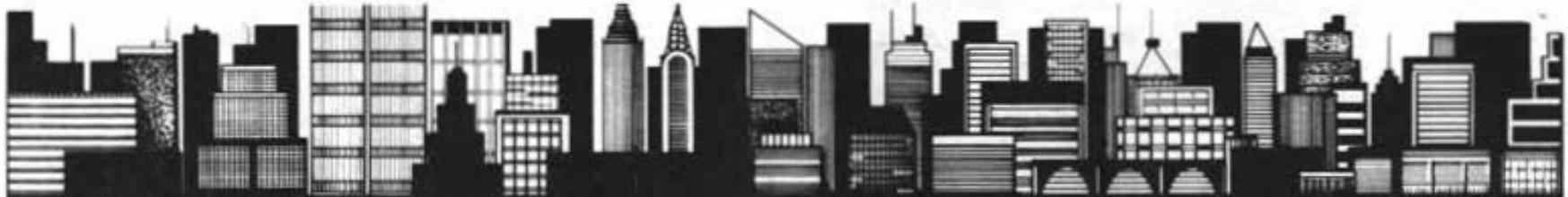


Kenneth Lewes, Ph.D.

Photo: John Schultz

Despite the quality and compassion of these books, they both contain a strange and significant omission peculiar to their author's profession. Both unravel arguments in a strangely self-contained world, with seeming disregard for the knowledge and insights of history, sociology, biology and the numerous disciplines and sub-disciplines that have a bearing on the subject. While both mention Kinsey, and briefly touch on "classical Greece," and while Lewes openly complains about psychoanalysts' lack of respect for outside references, the level of discourse on the subjects external to psychoanalysis is perfunctory in these books. No mention is made of the constructionist-essentialist debate, Foucault makes only the most fleeting of appearances, and vast bodies of recent historical data on the prevalence of homosexuality in non-Western cultures go unrecognized. It seems that even these thoughtful writers exist in a self-consuming galaxy, content to spin in relative oblivion to the universe of knowledge around them.

The attempt of well-meaning psychoanalysts to correct the errors and abuses of their field in relation to homosexuality is sadly overdue. While not the fault of these authors, their efforts can hardly excuse the massive damage wrought on gay men and lesbians by their flawed and rapidly retreating profession. What they seem to be aiming at is a reform of psychoanalysis. But like those who thought that Czechs or East Germans simply wanted a reformed communism and are shocked that they now demand its total abolition, psychoanalysts trying to create "Freudianism with a human face" should not be surprised if gays find their efforts simply irrelevant. After all, if psychoanalysis has been so fundamentally wrong on so fundamental a question, what else is it wrong about? ▼



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AN EVENTS CALENDAR

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Items must be received by
Monday to be included in the
following week's issue.

MONDAY JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

COMPANY RESTAURANT Hang-over Brunch, 365 Third Ave (btwn 26/27 St), 532-5222

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER/NY 7th and Final Night of Kwanzaa: *Imani* (Faith); call for location; 7:30 pm; 212/222-9794, 212/245-6366

MARC BERKLEY'S KOOL KOMRADS Stripper of the Year Contest at Private Eyes, 12 W 21 St; contest at midnight; \$5, 206-7772

TUESDAY JANUARY 2

ARTIST'S SPACE presents Final Week of *Witnesses: Against Our Vanishing*, the AIDS exhibit that the NEA almost un-funded because of a "political" catalog; 223 West Broadway (near Franklin St); daily, through Saturday, JAN 6; 11 am - 6 pm; 226-3970

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Jewish Education Courses; tonight: *Contemporary Jewish Issues: Alternative Families* at 7 pm; at 57 Bethune St; info 929-9498

GAY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION General Meeting with guest speaker, George Fesko, of the United Federation of Teachers' Executive Board, and Liaison to Lesbian & Gay Teachers; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; Center 620-7310

THE GLINES presents the press opening of Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, a new play about two gay men, a comic and an activist, and their conflicting passions; at the Courtyard Playhouse, 39 Grove St (at Bleeker); 8 pm; \$12; 869-3530 (plays thru FEB 4; WED-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 7 and 9:30 pm, SUN at 7 pm)

STEPHEN HOLT SHOW presents *Stephen Holt's Life in the 80's*, with scenes from *Fever of Unknown Origin*, *Casting of Kevin Christian*, *Love*, *Oscar*, and the gay musical, *Kareer Suicide*; Manhattan Cable TV, Channel 17/D; 9 pm (repeats on Manhattan and Paragon Cable, 1/6)

EAGLE BAR Movie Night: *Scooged*; 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

THURSDAY JANUARY 4

GAY WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE presents Jewelle Gomez, with stories of fantasy fiction from the real world (from her new book in progress); at the Universalist Church, Central Park West at 76 St; 8 pm; \$5 (for women only, meets every first Thursday)

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 3

THE PYRAMID presents Dudley in his new performance work *Second Sleep*, a "homoerotic, religio-sexual work-in-progress"; 101 Avenue A (at 6 St); 9 pm; info 473-5625 (presented this and every Thursday in January)

FRIDAY JANUARY 5

GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD/NY Volunteer Interviews, for those who wish to work at least two 3-hour shifts per month; those chosen will be required to attend an initial training the following day, 1/6; 6:30 pm; 777-1800

THE ANSWER IS LOVING Women Talking Women's Talk: "Limit Setting/Boundaries," knowing when to say yes, and when to say no without guilt or loss of love; led by Ruth Berman and Connie Kurtz; Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn; 7:45-10 pm; \$8; 718/998-2305

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER/NY Educational Forum/CR Session: *Stale Roles and Tight Buns*; a discussion on this provocative film which examines the media representation of male sexuality and desire; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; 7:45 pm; 222-9794, 245-6366

GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT Discussion: *Stressed Out*, dealing with work-related stresses such as homophobia, prejudice, racism, sexism, demanding bosses, office politics, combative co-workers, last-minute deadlines; in the Assembly Hall of The Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 620-7310

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 3

COLUMBIA LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, GAY COALITION First Friday Dance, in Earl Hall, Columbia U., 116 St & Bway (#1/#9 train); 10 pm - 2 am; photo ID to drink; 854-3574, 854-1488 (Editor's note: the Columbia Gay & Lesbian Alliance changed its name last month)

SATURDAY JANUARY 6

SELF-HEALING AIDS RELATED EXPERIMENT Workshop: *Awareness into Silence*, 11 am - 5 pm, 460-8074

STEPHEN HOLT SHOW presents *Stephen Holt's Life in the 80's*, with scenes from *Fever of Unknown Origin*, *Casting of Kevin Christian*, *Love*, *Oscar*, and the gay musical, *Kareer Suicide*; Manhattan and Paragon Cable, Channel 16/C; 11:30 am

prepared by Rick X
with additional information from
The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of
New York

For more information or referrals, to
rap, or to volunteer, call the GLSB
daily, noon to midnight, 212-777-1800

SAGE First Brunch of the 90's, at Gus' Place, 149 Waverly Place; noon or 2 pm seating; \$9.50; rsvp 741-2247

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Winter Film Festival: *Hill 24 Doesn't Answer*, at 57 Bethune St (near West St), 8 pm, \$4 (includes free popcorn & soda), 929-9498

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 3

SUNDAY JANUARY 7

SAGE Sunday Drop-In, in the SAGE Room at The Center, 208 W 13 St, 1:30 - 4:30 pm; 741-2247

BISEXUAL PRIDE Focus Group: *Coming Out Bl*, at The Center, 208 W 13 St, 3 pm, \$5, 718/353-8245

BISEXUAL DOMINANCE & SUBMISSION GROUP Share S/M Experiences and Fantasies "in a positive, non-judgmental atmosphere"; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; 4:45 pm; \$5; 718/353-8245

DON'T TELL MAMA presents Don Grasso, singing *Ab, Men*; 343 W 46 St; 6 pm; \$10 cover + 2-drink minimum; 757-0788

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 3

MONDAY JANUARY 8

ACT UP/ATLANTA and ACT UP/NEW YORK National Action to Repeal all Sodomy Laws, rally and march to the state capitol in Atlanta, Georgia, a state which allows 20 years in prison for oral or anal sex (more than for armed assault); info 404/873-1097, 212/989-1114

TIMES SQUARES Free Square Dancing Class for Lesbians and Gay Men; at PS 3, 490 Hudson St (btwn Grove & Christo-

pher); 7:30 pm; \$7.50; 299-2492 (another free class is on JAN 22; starting JAN 29 classes are \$5 each and enrollment closes that night).

WNET-TV/13 *Stop AIDS*, the best student-produced videos entered in last spring's High School AIDS Education Video Contest are featured; 10:10:30 pm (repeats late-night FRI, JAN 12, 12:30 am).

WNET-TV/13 *Keith Haring: Drawing the Line*, profiling the artist's work, world view, and artistic influence; 10:30 - 11 pm (repeats early SUN, JAN 14, 5:30 am).

TUESDAY JANUARY 9

ACT UP/ATLANTA and ACT UP/NEW YORK National Action to Change the CDC's Definition of AIDS and ARC, legal picket and civil disobedience at the Centers for Disease Control, to "abolish the outmoded and unscientific definitions of AIDS and ARC, revise the epidemiological methods, and provide services and treatment to all people who need them"; info 404/873-1097, 212/989-1114.

2ND TUESDAYS AT THE CENTER presents Police Officer Vanessa Ferro, the first New York Police Department liaison to the lesbian and gay community, who will show a police training video, *Anti-Gay Violence*; at 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; \$3; Center 620-7310, Ferro 374-5370.

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Tuesday Night Video Film Festival: *Before Stonewall*, also a Documentary on SAGE; 57 Bethune St (Westbeth Complex, up center courtyard ramp); 8 pm; free; 989-9498 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10

SAGE Annual Meeting in the first floor Assembly Hall at The Center, 208 W 13 St, 6-8 pm; 741-2247

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Jewish Education Courses; tonight: Mel Rosen's Workshop/Discussion on Issues that Confront Us as Lesbian and Gay Jews at 7:30 pm; at 57 Bethune St; info 929-9498

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS Men Meeting Men Workshop, to enhance self-confidence and ability to negotiate safer sex with potential partners; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; 8-10:30 pm; free; no preregistration, 807-6655 (TDD 645-7470)

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, a new play about two gay men, a comic and an activist, and their conflicting passions; at the Courtyard Playhouse, 39 Grove St (at Bleeker); 8 pm; \$12; 869-3530 (plays thru FEB 4; WED-FRI at 8 pm, SAT at 7 and 9:30 pm, SUN at 7 pm)

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS Meeting: *The Distant Caress: Whips and Cats*, with tips from whipmasters; at The Center, 3rd Floor, 208 W 13 St; 8:30 pm (doors open at 8); \$5; 727-9878

EAGLE BAR Movie Night: *Three Fugitives*; 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

THURSDAY JANUARY 11

SAGE Afternoon at the Brooklyn Public Library, Kings Highway Branch, 2115 Ocean Ave at Kings Hwy; 1-4 pm; info 212/741-2247

NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE Metro Area Information Meeting, for the Atlanta meeting APR 24-28; at The Center, 208 W 13 St (1st floor, ASL interpreted); 6:30-8:30 pm

CENTER STAGE sees *The Merchant of Venice*, with Dustin Hoffman as Shylock; at the 46th Street Theatre; 8 pm; \$70; 620-7310

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 10

INTERNATIONAL THEATER OF POETRY AND PAIN presents Annie Sprinkle: *Post Porn Modernist*, directed by Emilio Cabeiro; "the work charts writer/performer Annie Sprinkle's personal odyssey through the worlds of art and ideology, commerce and pornography, a journey which leads her to alternative models of sexual health and well-being"; this and next week only, THU & SUN at 8 pm (\$12), FRI & SAT at 8 and 11 pm (\$14); 255-5793 (Editor's

note: the artist and director say you should "feel free to take photos")

THE PYRAMID presents Dudley in his new performance work *Second Sleep*, a "homoerotic, religio-sexual work-in-progress"; 101 Avenue A (at 6 St); 9 pm; info 473-5625 (presented this and every Thursday in January)

FRIDAY JANUARY 12

GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT Discussion: *He's Gotta Have It!*, dealing with the controversial topic of "sexual addiction," with Dr. Arthur Clymer and two recovering "sex addicts," who will discuss clinical findings and treatments; in the Charles Angel/People of Color Room at The Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; 620-7310

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 10

INTERNATIONAL THEATER OF POETRY AND PAIN presents Annie Sprinkle: *Post Porn Modernist*, see JAN 11

WNET-TV/13 *Stop AIDS*, see JAN 8

SATURDAY JANUARY 13

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS Workshop: *Keep It Up!*, to reaffirm the importance of safer sex, and feel confident about saying yes, whether you're into casual sex or serious dating, and no matter what your HIV status is; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; noon - 6 pm; register 806-6655, TDD 645-7470

CENTER KIDS Get-Together for Single Parents and their Kids, 1 pm; leave message at The Center, 620-7310, for info

BORICUA GAY AND LESBIAN FORUM Orientation Night, followed by social gathering with refreshments; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 pm sharp; \$2; 293-0833

KAREN SMITH directs Eric Booth's *Metamorphosis: a slice of black gay life*, an original play about a 60-year-old black drag queen, a 35-year-old ex-pimp and rehabilitated addict,

and a 25-year-old Hispanic who loves the good life of sex, disco and drugs, and who puts the other two through changes; at The Center, 208 W 13 St; five performances: today, SUN, MON and TUES at 8 pm plus an extra 2 pm matinee SUN, JAN 14; \$8 advance/\$10 door; reservations and info 893-9852

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 10

INTERNATIONAL THEATER OF POETRY AND PAIN presents Annie Sprinkle: *Post Porn Modernist*, see JAN 11

BIWAYS NY (of the NY Area Bisexual Network) Evening of Dinner, Film and Dancing Till Dawn; 718/355-8245

SUNDAY JANUARY 14

WNET-TV/13 *Keith Haring: Drawing the Line*, see JAN 8

KAREN SMITH directs Eric Booth's *Metamorphosis: a slice of black gay life*, see JAN 13

JAMAICA ARTS CENTER presents *Sweet Honey in the Rock* at Golden Center for the Performing Arts, Queens College, Kissena Blvd and LI Expressway; 3 pm; \$16-\$19; 718/793-8080

THE GLINES presents Sidney Morris's *The Wind Beneath My Wings*, see JAN 10

INTERNATIONAL THEATER OF POETRY AND PAIN presents Annie Sprinkle: *Post Porn Modernist*, see JAN 11

MONDAY JANUARY 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

CENTER SPORTS sees NY Knicks vs. Chicago Bulls, basketball game; at Madison Square Garden, 33rd St & 7th Ave; 1 pm; members \$30/non-members \$40; 620-7310

OUTWEEK BEST BETS

Monday

Private Eyes (preppie; male strippers, 2-4-1 till midnight) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th & 6th Aves, 206-7772

Tuesday

Better Days 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves) 245-8925

***Love Machine** at Underground 860 Broadway, near 17th St; 254-4005

Wednesday

Better Days 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves) 245-8925

Private Eyes (Jeffrey Sanker & Dallas's Club Bad) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th & 6th Aves, 206-7772

Silver Lining (2-4-1 drink) 175 Cherry La., Floral Park, LI, 516-354-9641

Spectrum (free admission all night) 802 64th Street, Brooklyn, 718-238-8213

Thursday

***Boybar** (has a new wave drag show) 15 1/2 St Marks Place, btwn 2nd & 3rd Aves, 674-7959

***Copacabana** (last Thu. of the month has Susan Bartsch party) 10 E 60 St, at Fifth Ave, 755-6010

***Pyramid** (Queer-Amid, with host Ru Paul) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6th & 7th Streets, 420-1590

Spectrum (free admission all night, 2-4-1 drinks) 802 64th Street, Brooklyn, 718-238-8213

Friday

***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Pl., btwn 2nd & 3rd Aves, 674-7959

***Carmelita's** (Chip Duckett Boy+Boy & Girl+Girl) 150 E 14 St

Columbia Dances (1st Friday of every month, except July) 116th St & Bway, 854-3574 days

Private Eyes (preppies and young professionals) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th & 6th Aves, 206-7772

Spectrum (male and female strippers) 802 64th Street, Brooklyn, 718-238-8213

World (mixed gay/straight) 254 E 2 St, 477-8677

Saturday

Barefoot Boogie (smoke & alcohol free) 434 6th Ave (btwn 9/10 Sts); 832-6759

***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Place, btwn 2nd & 3rd Aves, 674-7959

The Center Dances (2nd and 4th Saturdays) 208 W 13 St, btwn 7th & 8th Aves, 620-7310

Private Eyes (Jeffrey Sanker & Dallas's Club Bad) 12 W 21 St, btwn 5th & 6th Aves, 206-7772

Sound Factory (Acid House, no alcohol, doors open midnight) 530 W 27 St (btwn 10th & 11th Aves), 643-0728

Spectrum (guest performer night) 802 64th St., Brooklyn, 718-238-8213

World (mixed gay/straight) 254 E 2 St, 477-8677

Sunday

Better Days 316 W 49 St (8/9 Aves); 245-8925

***Mars** (Chip Duckett's "Mars Needs Men" night) Westside Highway and 13th St, 691-6262

***Pyramid** (Hapi Phace and Drag + Variety Show) 101 Avenue A, btwn 6th & 7th Streets, 420-1590

Spectrum (show; free admission 9-10 pm) 802 64th Street, Brooklyn, 718-238-8213

Every Night

Grand Central (Rockville Centre, LI, closed Mon. & Tues) 210 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, LI, 516-536-4800

Monster (West Village) 80 Grove St. at Sheridan Sq., 924-3557

Nimbus (West Village) 22 7th Ave South (at Leroy, 2 blks above W Houston), 691-4826

BEST BETS for Women's Dancing

NOTE: Party events are subject to change. Always call first to confirm.

Tuesday

Hatfield's 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, 718-261-8484

Wednesday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516-486-9516

Spectrum 802 64th St. @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, 718-238-8213

Twenty/Twenty (Shescape after work party) 20 West 20 Street (btwn 5th & 6th Aves), info 645-6479, club 255-6579

Thursday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516-486-9516

Spectrum 802 64th St. @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, 718-238-8213

Friday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516-486-9516

***Carmelita's** (Chip Duckett Boy+Boy & Girl+Girl) 150 E 14 St

Cheeks 2000 Long Beach Road, Island Park, LI, 516-431-5700

Octagon (Shescape) 555 West 33 Street, btwn 10th & 11th Aves; 947-0400, 645-6479

Spectrum 802 64th St. @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, 718-238-8213

Visions 56-01 Queens Blvd, Wdsde, info 718-846-7131, club 718-899-9031

Saturday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516-486-9516

The Center (2nd and 4th Saturdays, & special events)

Silver Lining 175 Cherry Lane, Floral Park, LI, 516-354-9641

Spectrum 802 64th St. @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, 718-238-8213

Starz 836 Grand Boulevard, Deer Park, LI, 516-242-3857

Twenty/Twenty (Shescape) 20 West 20 Street (btwn 5th & 6th Aves), info 645-6479, club 255-6579

Sunday

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd, W. Hempstead, LI; 516-486-9516

Cave Canem (Sandwich Sister Sundays, Oega Productions)

Lads 130 West Post Road (Rte 22), White Plains, 914-683-5353

Spectrum 802 64th St. @ 8th Ave, Bay Ridge, 718-238-8213

Every Night

Cubby Hole 438 Hudson St. @ Morton St., 243-9079

Duchess II Sheridan Sq. & 7th Ave South, 242-1408

All phone numbers are area code 212, unless otherwise noted.

* = TVs welcome.

Send corrections/additions to:

Rick X

P.O. Box 790

New York, NY 10108

BLAZE from page 55

ioned true believer in men-as-real-men and in the women-as-whores who sacrifice themselves for the boys. Blaze initially peaks Earl's libido by refusing him, then she earns his undying loyalty by restoring his lost potency in their first sexual encounter. With such a deep understanding of sexual politics, it's a wonder Shelton isn't making perfume commercials.

To make history conform to his narrow notions, Shelton simply tosses Earl out the window and replaces him with a squinty-eyed Paul Newman, hair slightly mussed. Those baby-blues that melted hearts in the 60s and 70s and burned with countless indignations (and Oscar nominations) in the 80s immediately vaporize any hope that the Earl K. Long in *Blaze* will resemble the actual man. Newman misbehaves and rants and raves, but the method in his madness implies the governor was somehow, deep inside, a sane man in complete control of his government and his emotions. Newman's entire overwrought performance is exploded by two minutes of a radio interview with the real Mad

Earl, heard at the tale-end of the closing credits. What a fascinating, terrifying man! How unlike Newman's endearing curmudgeon!

Despite the millions spent on period costumes and sets, the sociopolitical context is almost nonexistent. In reality, it was no wonder Earl's wife (here noticeably absent) and enemies had him committed to a mental ward while he was still in office. In the film, however, the asylum sequence is just one more in a series of incomprehensible political shenanigans carried out by the amorphous opposition and thwarted, inevitably, by oh-so-clever Blaze—played by Lolita Davidovich, in a performance worthy of any daytime soap. No doubt true to the mistress' self-aggrandizing autobiography, the movie attributes Earl's downfall to his passion for his women and his insistence on Black suffrage. (It's true Earl wanted Blacks to be able to vote—he figured they'd keep him in office.)

Not a moment is believable. The movie turns a southern gothic Macbeth into a failed reformer, born too soon, loving too fiercely. The rough edges that made him a legend have been sanded smooth. ▼

LESBIAN TONGUES from page 60

(Although Pop Video is planning a *Lesbian Tongues 2* which will girth more of our communities). Lastly, Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw of Split Britches comment that the movement's focus on AIDS has meant women's issues are taking a back seat. This highly charged statement which needed either more clarification—or total deletion. Left hanging without further development, this one-liner scrapes like an inflamed hangnail serving no purpose but to offend or confuse.

Yet, in spite of these shortcomings, *Lesbian Tongues* is a slip of lesbian greenery that re-roots us into our sensuality. It is a video that has earned a niche in our community and our Lesbian Herstory Archives. The video mirrors Joan Nestle's stated goal for the archives, "It has given me back that despised part of myself and is ending a deprivation of the most searing kind." ▼

HILL from page 19

In 1989, they helped secure final FDA approval of ganciclovir, a previously stymied AIDS-blindness drug; achieved preliminary approval of a "parallel track" drug distribution system, allowing promising drugs to be more widely accessible to AIDS and HIV patients who would not otherwise qualify for standard clinical drug trials; and enlisted the support of the government's top AIDS researcher, Dr. Anthony Fauci, among other victories.

In typical bureaucratic fashion, many of the innovations remain unresolved and imperfect. And there continue to be confrontations with the federal health agencies in suburban Maryland—all of which remain without appointed heads under the administration of President George Bush.

Still, 1989 marked breakthroughs in cooperation previously thought impossible.

The Summer Art Censorship Debate

When a small retrospective of photographs by critically acclaimed late gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe began

a nationwide tour in early 1989, few could have imagined the firestorm which would ensue.

Triggered by cries of "pornography" and "blasphemy" from the right and countered by calls of "censorship" and "politics" on the left, the debate led to a daily escalation of the fight in Congress and in the streets.

What started with the cancellation of the Mapplethorpe display at Washington's Corcoran Gallery of Art, ended with the discrediting of the museum by the arts community, a series of noisy demonstrations and the withdrawal of a major bequest and the December resignation of the gallery's director.

And what began with constituent letters to congressional conservatives about a photograph of a cross immersed in a jar of Andres Serrano's urine and selected homoerotic and sadomasochistic images in the Mapplethorpe tour being partially financed with federal dollars, led to amendment after amendment—most sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC)—limiting the use of tax dollars by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Even after the byzantine congressional process resulted in a heavily neutralized Helms amendment being passed into law, its "chilling effect" brought about a two week fracas involving the withdrawal and subsequent re-approval of an NEA grant for a New York AIDS art show.

Conservatives are expected to wield the controversial arts-funding issue again in 1990, as the November elections approach, and take it to the House and Senate floor to again discuss the merits of urine as an art form.

Helms Tactics Quietly Win

What would a year-end recap of gay/lesbian and AIDS news in the year be without a nod being given to Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and his anti-gay efforts? This year, unlike those just past, Helms' efforts have been less visible (with the noted exception of the arts issue), but have been more successful.

A synopsis of the 1989 efforts of a man deemed by some as "The Prince of Darkness" underscores this.

In 1989, Helms:

- Successfully blocked approval of additional funds to an AIDS drug distribution plan in March;
- Blocked approval of a long-term authorization of the same drug funding

See HILL on page 73

OUTWEEK BAR GUIDE

WEST SIDE

Bike Stop West, 230 W. 75th St., 874-9014, Neighborhood bar, occasional entertainment.

Candle Bar, 309 Amsterdam Ave., 874-9155, Friendly leather/western bar.

Cat's, 730 8th Ave., 221-7559, Older men, younger guys

Don't Tell Mama, 343 W. 46th St., 757-0788, Sing-along piano bar and cabaret.

Jason's, 23 W. 73rd St.

Sally's Hideaway, 264 W. 43rd St., 221-9152

Town & Country, 9th Ave at 46th St., 307-1503

Trix, 246 W. 48 St. (bet. Bdwy & 8th Ave), 664-8331, Cash and carry.

The Works, 428 Columbus Ave (at 81st), 799-7365, Cruisy west side crowd.

EAST SIDE

Brandy's Piano Bar, 235 E. 84th St., 650-1944, Sing-along piano bar.

G.H. Club, 353 E. 53rd St., 223-9752, Piano bar, mature crowd.

Johnny's Pub, 123 E. 47th St., 355-8714, Neighborhood restaurant and bar.

Regent East, 204 E. 58th St., 355-9465

Rounds, 303 E. 53rd St., 593-0807, Friendly guys, checkbook romance.

South Dakota, 405 3rd Ave., 684-8376

Star Sapphire, 400 E. 59th St., 688-4710

EAST VILLAGE

The Bar, 68 2nd Ave. (at 4th St.), 674-9714, East Villagers and ACT UPers.

Boy Bar, 15 St. Mark's Pl., 674-7959, Dancing / Drag shows.

The Pyramid, 101 Avenue A, 420-1590, Dancing / Drag shows.

Tunnel Bar, 116 1st Ave (7th St.), 777-9232 W. Village crowd in the E. Village.

WEST VILLAGE

The Annex (to Cellblock 28), 673 Hudson St. (bet. 13th & 14th), 627-1140, J/O Club.

Badlands, Christopher & West St., 741-9236, Cruisy waterfront bar.

Boots & Saddle, 76 Christopher St., 929-9684, Funky dive and juke joint.

Cellblock 28, 28 9th Ave, 733-3144, J/O club.

The Cubbyhole, 438 Hudson (Morton St), 243-9079, Neighborhood bar for gay women & men.

D.T.'s Fat Cat, 281 W. 12th St., 243-9041, Piano bar. Mixed M/F.

Duchess II, 70 Grove St (7th Ave.), 242-1408, Women.

J's, 675 Hudson St., 242-9292, J/O club.

Julius, 159 W. 10th St., 929-9672, Serving Coors, Coors Lite, & Coors Draft.

Keller's, 384 West St. (at Christopher), 243-1907, Friendly neighborhood crowd.

Kelly's Village West, 46 Bedford St., 929-9322, Piano bar.

The Locker Room, 400 W. 14th St. (9th Ave), 459-4299, J/O club.

METRO AREA INFORMATION MEETING For NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE

to be held April 24-28, 1991 in Atlanta

Thurs., Jan. 11
6:30-8:30 pm

The Center
208 W. 13th Street
(between 7th & 8th Ave.)
First Floor
ASL Interpreted

Marie's Crisis, 59 Grove St. (7th Ave), 243-9323, Sing-along piano bar.

The Monster, 80 Grove St. (7th Ave.), 924-3558, Piano bar & disco/dancing.

Nimbus 22, 22 7th Ave. South, 691-4826, Dancing, pinball, pool, lounge.

Ninth Circle, 139 W. 10th St., 243-9204, Younger crowd.

Ramrod, 185 Christopher St.

Sneakers, 392 West St., 242-9830.

Two Potato, 145 Christopher St., 242-9340.

Ty's, 114 Christopher St., 741-9641, Cruisy neighborhood bar.

Uncle Charlie's, 56 Greenwich Ave., 255-8787, Huge video bar.

CHELSEA

Barbary Coast, 64 7th Ave. (14th St.), 675-0385, Friendly, neighborhood bar.

The Break, 232 8th Ave. (22nd St.), 627-0072.

Chelsea Transfer, 131 8th Ave. (bet. 16th & 17th), 929-7183, Neighborhood English pub.

Eagle's Nest, 142 11th Ave (21st St.), 691-8451, Leather / Levi's.

Private Eyes, 12 W. 21st St. (bet. 5th & 6th), 206-7770, Dancing, Video Club.

Rawhide, 212 8th Ave., (21st St.), Leather / Levi's.

Spike, 120 11th Ave., 243-9688, Leather & Uniforms.

Tracks, 19th St. & 11th Ave., Dancing.



The Cubbyhole

438 Hudson Street
at Morton
(212) 243-9079

A neighborhood bar for both gay men & women

**Say Goodbye to Out in the 80s.
It's time for a change.**

OUT IN THE 90s

Television for a new decade of lesbian and gay life.

News /Interviews/AIDS Updates
Live Every Tuesday at 11pm
Manhattan Cable/Paragon Cable
Channel C/16

GAY BROADCASTING SYSTEM



CASTLE CARE INC.

(212) 807-8739

Apartment Cleaning

67-69 Morton Street #4E, New York, NY 10014

Community Directory

A.C.O.C.

AIIDS CENTER OF QUEENS COUNTY
SOCIAL SERVICES • EDUCATION • BUDDIES COUNSELING • SUPPORT GROUPS
Volunteer Opportunities
(718) 896-2500(voice) (718) 896-2985(TDD)

ACT UP (AIIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)
496A Hudson Street, Suite G4 NYC 10014
(212) 989-1114

A diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. Gen. meetings Mon. nights 7:30, at the Community Center 208 W.13th.

ARCS (AIIDS-Related Community Services) for Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. AIDS education, client services, crisis intervention, support groups, case management, buddy and health visitor program. 214 Central Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 (914) 993-0006 838 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550 (914) 562-5005 AIDSline (914) 993-0607

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Lawyers Referral
Service for the Lesbian and Gay Community
Full Range of Legal Services (212) 459-4873

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Free Walk-in Legal Clinic, Tuesday 6-8 pm
Lesbian & Gay Community Centr. Ground Floor

BIDS (BISEXUAL DOMINANCE & SUBMISSION GROUP)

Share S/M experiences and fantasies with others in a positive, non-judgmental atmosphere. First Sunday of the month, 4:45pm at the Community Center 208 W. 13 Street, NYC. This group is part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

BIRWAYS NEW YORK

Monthly social events for the Bisexual community and friends. Call NYABN for details of upcoming events. (718) 853-8245

BIPAC (BISEXUAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE)

Political action on issues of importance to the Bisexual/Lesbian/Gay community. Monthly meeting/potluck held 8:00pm on fourth Thursday of the month at members homes. Call NYABN for this month's location. (718) 853-8245

BISEXUAL YOUTH

Informal social & support group for Bisexual kids/youth. Monthly meeting/potluck lunch held 1:00pm on fourth Sunday of the month at members homes. Call NYABN for this month's location. This group is part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

BLUS-BRONX LESBIANS UNITED IN SISTERHOOD

Social, political and support networking group for women and their friends. Regular social events and meetings on the first and third Fridays of every month. At The Community Center, 208 W. 13 Street, from 6:30-8pm. For more info call Lisa at (212) 829-9817.

BODY POSITIVE

If you or your lover has tested HIV+, we offer support groups, seminars, public forums, reference library, referrals, social activities and up-to-date national monthly, 'THE BODY POSITIVE' (\$15/year). (212) 633-1782.
2095 Broadway, Suite 306, NYC, NY 10023

CIRCLE OF MORE LIGHT

Spiritual support and sharing in a gay/lesbian affirmative group.
West-Park Presbyterian Church
165 West 86th Street
Wed: worship service 6:30 pm, program 7:30.
Marsha (212) 304-4373 Charlie (212) 691-7118.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

208 West 13th Street, NYC, New York 10011
For Appointments and Information
(212) 675-3559 (TTY/Voice)

PROVIDING CARING, SENSITIVE AND LOW COST
HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE LESBIAN AND GAY
COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

PWAs, PWRCs & their physicians taking the initiative to seek promising intervention against AIDS in a resp. manner. For more info or to volunteer please call (212) 481-1050.

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH

NY's Gay and Lesbian Synagogue Services
Friday at 8:30pm 57 Bethune Street
For info: call: (212) 929-9458.

DIGNITY/BIG APPLE

A community of Lesbian and Gay Catholics. Activities include Liturgies and socials every Sat., 8:00 pm, at the Center, 208 W. 13 Street, NYC.
Call (212) 818-1309.

DIGNITY NEW YORK

lesbian and gay Catholics and friends
AIDS Ministry, Spiritual Development:
The Cathedral Project.

Worship Services & Social-Sun. Eves, 7:30pm-St. John's Episcopal Church 218 West 11th Street @ Waverly-675-2179

EDGE

Education in a Disabled Gay Environment
For the physically disabled Lesbian and Gay Community. (212) 989-1921
P.O. Box 305 Village Station, New York, NY 10014

FEMME SUPPORT GROUP

For lesbians who self identify as Femme. For info and meeting times call Lisa at (212) 829-9817. No men please.

FRONT RUNNERS

A running club for lesbian and gay athletes of all abilities. Fun Runs of 1-6 miles held every Sat. at 10am and Weds. at 7pm in Central Park and every Tues. at 7pm in Prospect Park.
For information: call (212) 724-9700.

THE FUND FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

National Gay and Lesbian Crisis Line
"AIDS 800" 1-800-SOS-GAYS
Educational Resource Center; Positive Images Media Center; NY State Arts Program
666 Broadway Suite 410 NYC, NY 10012 (212) 529-1600

THE GAY AFRICAN AMERICANS OF WESTCHESTER (The G.A.A.)

is a community based support group formed in Westchester County. Various activities are planned for the coming months.
Please call 914-376-0727 for more info.

GLAAD

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
80 Varick Street, NYC 10013 (212) 966-1700
GLAAD combats homophobia in the media and elsewhere by promoting visibility of the lesbian and gay community and organizing grassroots response to anti-gay bigotry.

GAY & LESBIAN HEALTH CONCERN

An office of the NYC Dept. of Health, provides linkages between NYC Health & Human Svcs, and the Lesbian & Gay community, focusing in ALL health concerns; resource information for health services consumers and providers. 125 Worth Street, Box 67, New York, NY 10013. For info call (212) 586-4995.

GAY & LESBIAN PSYCHOTHERAPY

Sliding scale fees
Insurance accepted
Institute for Human Identity
(212) 799-9432

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS

Dedicated to safe and responsible S/M since 1981. Open meetings w/programs on S/M techniques, lifestyle issues, political and social concerns. Also special events, speakers bureau, workshops, demos, affinity groups, newsletter, more. GMSMA - Dept. O, 496A Hudson Street, Suite D23, NYC 10014. (212) 727-9878.

GMAD(GAY MEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT)

80 Varick Street, NYC 10013 a support group of Gay Men of African Descent dedicated to consciousness-raising and the development of the Lesbian and Gay Community. GMAD is inclusive of African, African-American, Caribbean and Hispanic/Latino men of color. Meetings are held weekly, on Fridays. For more information, call 718-802-0162.

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE

FOR INFORMATION ON SAFER SEX AND HIV-RELATED HEALTH SERVICES, AND FOR INFORMATION ON ONE-TIME, WALK-IN AIDS COUNSELING SERVICES
212-807-6655

212-645-7470 TDD (For the Hearing Impaired)
Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat 12:00 to 3:00

HEAL (Health Education AIDS Liaison)

Weekly info. and support group for treatments for AIDS which do not compromise the immune system further, including alternative and holistic approaches.
Wed 8pm... 208 W. 13th St. (212) 674-HOPE.

HETRICK-MARTIN INSTITUTE

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(212) 633-8920(voice)
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HISPANIC UNITED GAYS & LESBIANS

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General meetings 8:00 pm 4th Thursday of every month at 208 West 13th Street.
Call (212) 691-4181
or write H.U.G.L., P.O. Box 226 Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10019.

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LESBIAN AND GAY LABOR NETWORK
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MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER NY
A multi-racial group of gay men against racism. Meetings every Friday night at 7:45 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th Street. For more info, call: (212) 245-6368 or (212) 222-9794.

METROPOLITAN TENNIS GROUP(MTG)
Our 200 member lesbian and gay tennis club includes players from beginning to tournament level. Monthly tennis parties. Winter indoor league. Come play with us! For information: MTG, P.O.B. 2135, New York, NY 10025, (212) 662-0695.

MOCA

Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program.
Provides safer sex and AIDS education information to gay and bisexual Men of Color; coordinates a network of peer-support groups for gay and bisexual Men of Color in all 5 boroughs of New York City.
303 Ninth Ave, New York, NY 10001
or call (212) 239-1796.

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE
is the national grassroots political organization for lesbians and gay men. Membership is \$30/year. Issue-oriented projects address violence, sodomy laws, AIDS, gay rights ordinances, families, media, etc. through lobbying, education, organizing and direct action.
NGLTF 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202) 332-6483.

NEW YORK ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
NYACN is the community's largest gay and lesbian professional group, welcoming all in communications-and their friends. Monthly meetings, 3rd Wed 6:30pm at the Community Center. Members' newsletter, job hotline, annual directory. Phone (212) 517-0380 for more info. Mention OutWeek for one free newsletter.

NINTH STREET CENTER
Since 1973, a community dedicated to demonstrating that a homosexual lifestyle is a rational, desirable choice for individuals dissatisfied with the rewards of conventional living. Psychologically focused rap groups, Tues., Sat., 8 to 10 pm, peer counseling available. 319 E. 9 Street, New York, NY 10003, for info call (212) 228-5153.

NORTH AMERICAN MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION (NAMBLA)
Dedicated to sexual freedom and especially interested in gay intergenerational relationships. Monthly Bulletin and regular chapter meetings on the first Saturday of each month. Yearly membership is \$20; write NAMBLA, PO Box 174, Midtown Station, New York, NY 10018 or call (212) 807-8578 for information.

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PRIDE FOCUS GROUP
Topical discussions on issues of interest to the community in a congenial atmosphere, followed by an informal dinner at a friendly local restaurant. Every Sunday, 3:00-4:30pm at the Community Center 208 W. 13 Street, NYC. Part of the New York Area Bisexual Network.

SAGE: (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)
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ULSTER COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE
Meets first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Sawkill Road in Kingston.
For information, call (914) 626-3203.

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY CENTER (WACC)
A non-profit, Lesbian community center serving Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties. Thurs night weekly discussion group 8:30pm, for other activities please contact us at (516) 483-2050.

HILL from page 69

program in November;

- Helped attach an ineffectual, yet controversial amendment to Americans with Disabilities Act citing "homosexuality and bisexuality" alongside a list of "sexual and drug-related disorders" exempt from the bill's anti-discrimination protections;

- Helped add a rider to the D.C. non-discrimination code exempting religious educational institutions from its gay and lesbian rights law;

- Blocked the much-awaited Hate Crimes Statistics Act from floor action, despite lopsided passage of the bill in the House;

- Effectively banned federal funds from being used for clean needle distribution programs and tried (unsuccessfully) to ban bleach programs as well;

- Condemned approval of a lesbian/gay pride day postmark;

- Threatened to undermine efforts to revamp changes in AIDS immigration laws which stop AIDS and HIV infected immigrants and visitors at the border;

- And was the leader of a small minority opposing AIDS anti-discrimination language in the ADA.

Appearances, especially in Washington, can be deceiving.

But if the actual scope and impact of Washington events affecting the gay and AIDS communities often seem nebulous and open to interpretation, that confusion can often be traced back to how the news items are handled by our nation's mainstream media.

While indifference continues to masquerade as disinterest in newsrooms across the country (where sensitivity so often falls victim to sensationalism), gay "scandals" will almost always receive more air time and more column inches than the legislative and judicial issues which seriously impact gays.

And the actual scope and impact of almost all such stories, whether the news is good or bad, is almost always more far-reaching than the way it is portrayed in our "newspapers of record."

Although gay and lesbian politicos face an already overloaded agenda in the new decade, overcoming the alternating apathy and sensationalism with which non-gay news reporters handle the issues of our communities seems like a good place to start as any. ▼

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OUTREACH/TRAINER COORDINATOR

New York Women Against Rape, a non-profit Anti-violence organization is looking for a p/t Outreach/Trainer Coordinator. Resp. include: recruiting volunteers to do speaking on the Lower East Side on sexual assault, co-facilitating counselor trainings, organizing bi-monthly orientations for new volunteers, crisis counseling, and aiding the development of outreach, publicity, and literature to disseminate throughout the community.

Qual. should include: 1 yr counseling exp., 1 yr community organizing exp., working knowledge of the Lower East Side and Chinatown helpful, Bilingual (Span/Eng) preferred. If interested send resume and cover letter to Search Committee, NYWAR, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. Woman of Color and Lesbians encouraged to apply.

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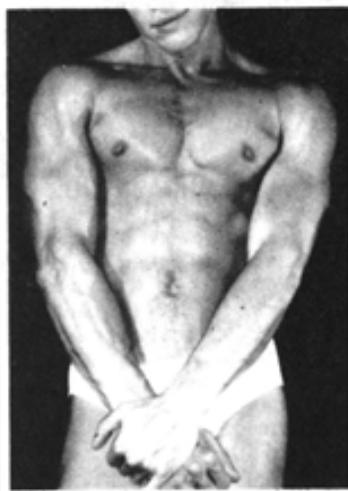
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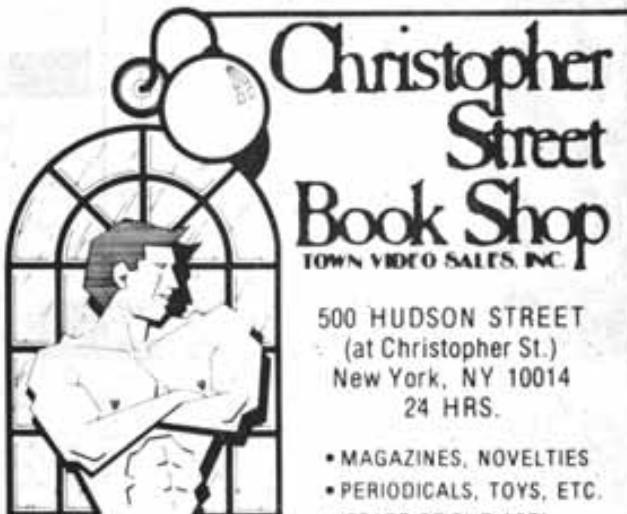
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2. **USE A CONDOM DURING ORAL SEX.** If you don't, avoid placing the head of your partner's cock in your mouth. HIV-infected cum or precum can enter your bloodstream through cuts, tears or ulcers in your mouth.
3. **USE DENTAL DAMS DURING ORAL-VAGINAL SEX.** HIV is present in some amounts in vaginal secretions, urine, menstrual blood, and infection-related vaginal discharge.
4. **NEVER SHARE WORKS.** This includes needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers. If you must reuse works, clean them after each use with bleach, or in an emergency with rubbing alcohol or vodka, by drawing the solution into the needle three times and then drawing clean water into the needle three times.
5. **AVOID FISTING, RIMMING, OR SHARING UNCLEANED SEX TOYS.**
6. **AVOID POPPERS.**
7. **AVOID EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE.** Many people are unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
8. **DON'T HESITATE TO:** Fuck with a condom, have oral sex with a condom. Play with, but don't share, clean sex toys, vibrators and dildos. Enjoy massage, hugging, masturbation (alone, with a partner or in a group), and role-playing.

Remember, sex is good, and gay sex is great. Don't avoid sex, just avoid the virus. Learn to eroticize safer sex and you can protect others, remain safe and have fun.

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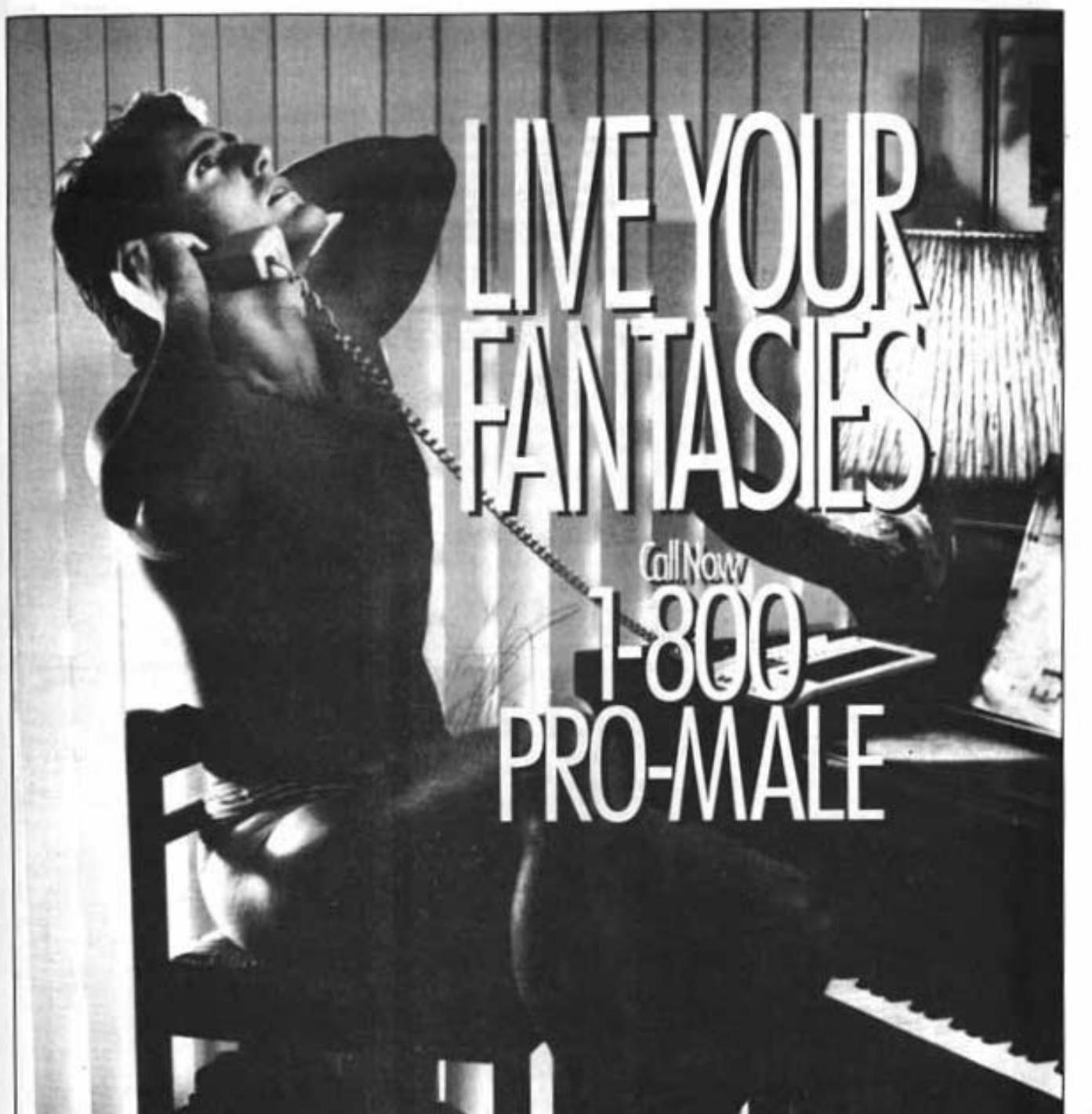
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PERSONALS

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LONELY EX-JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

lesbian searching for other Ex -JW lesbians fellowship and companions needed. There must be other women like me either disfellowshipped or pioneering. I would like to talk and share my feelings with understanding ears. Please write me soon. Outweek Box 1861

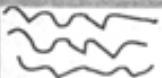
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

Semi-Yuppie, 38, y/o, sense of humor, non-smoker (essential) & non-drinker, non-believer, AIDS activist, likes include music (almost all kinds) art galleries, (PS1, "Storefront for A.A."), and architecture. Sexually: S/S, affection, not role orientated; in no hurry. 5'10", 140lbs, Br/Gr, slight handicap. Photo & note with phone to: J. Davies, Box 1055, Che Isca Station, NY, NY 10011. (no junk mail!!!)

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Personals—does this stuff really work? Am I really going to find a

To Answer an OutWeek Box Ad:



MEN'S PERSONALS BEGIN ON PAGE 88

tall, Vivacious, sensuous woman with smarts, wit, and daring, b/w 28-35, self-sufficient, and motivated enough to love, cares, dance, dine, discourse (Spanish speaking a plus) and

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GF, Womanist, looking for a good time. Wants quiet romantic dinners followed by Hot Torrid non-stop sex. Hot oil massages, whipped cream, and xtra cold ice are only the begin-

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27 yr-old Lesbian Feminist moving to

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GF, in search of the unexpected. Perfectly proportioned and equally irreverent. We'd make the powerhouse duo of this cold, dark city. The question is who gets wet faster? Outweek Box 1878

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I may be small in size but I'm very big on sharing the best of New York with a tall, 30ish, athletic full figured woman who can dance, romance, and keep up with my energetic spontaneous pace. Am into community, photography, travel, music and letting go... Will you come with me? Write Outweek Box 1879

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I'm alive, sparkling and ready, if the right buttons are pushed. Full-figured, tailored and energetic, 30ish, bilingual, dread locked Lesbian seeks tall, warm, provocative, philosophical, non-role playing woman for good cuisine, dramatic theater/Film, dancing and very good uninhibited sex. No S/M or role types. Write Outweek Box 1880

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PERSONALS OF THE WEEK

LAUREN—WOW! FIVE YEARS!!

Imagine that we're lucky enough to love each other in a time when I can tell you how I feel about you in a newspaper ad! I will always love you! You are the only woman in my life. Happy Anniversary, you gorgeous thing! All my love, Kimberly.

1990 MAN OF THE YEAR!

YOURS: showbiz stud, 6', 185, yg 44, very hdsdm & hung hero, lover, top pal w/ 2 dreamhomes, hairy chest, sexy smile! UR 22-38 and deserve the best. Photo a must: POB 1164, NYC 10159. **HUNKY NEW YEAR!** For 1990...& beyond!

do the New York town from off-off Broadway to warm nites with our VCR's. Let's try it! I'm game. Write Outweek Box 1872

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attractive, athletic, smoker, responsible, sensitive, intelligent, with a good sense of humor. I value honesty openness and sensitive women. I have experienced many of life's challenges and am better for it. I'm looking for a woman

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GWM, 39, responsible and caring guy who enjoys simple plea-

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GWM, 40, 5'8", 200 lbs, cone shaped tits loves to give & receive tit play into S/S send Ph/Ph to PO Box 20446, LTS, NY, NY 10011. My hot wet mouth is waiting to suck your chest, pecs, nipples.

TALL BROAD MEN

Do you need really exciting service by a hot

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STRONG LOOKING GUY

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friendship & exploring relationships. I enjoy off-beat films, outdoors, writing, music from Gregorian to New Wave, long quiet walks skiing, and candle-lit eves. Strong looks and personality a must (stocky, muscular, hairy a big +). Let's meet! Pls send letter/phone/photo to OutWeek Box 1854.

ALTAR BOUND

GWM, 37, 110lbs, seeks GM for dating, movies, Broadway, quiet dinners, safe sex, possible relationship. All letters answered, received with current photo, letter, tel #, to: AB L.T.S. 20276, NYC, 10011.

1990 MAN OF THE YEAR!

YOURS: showbiz stud, 6', 185, yg 44, very hdsm & hung hero, lover, top pal w/ 2 dreamhomes, hairy chest, sexy smile! UR 22-38 and deserve the best. Photo a must: POB 1164, NYC 10159. HUNKY NEW YEAR! For 1990...& beyond!

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AFFAIR WANTED

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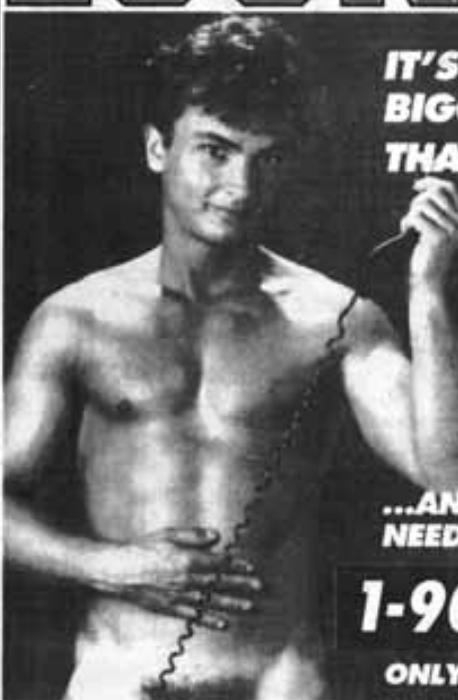
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and take each other's
clothes off. Let's make
jokes about the
French. We can order
in Chinese food and
make love during the
four minutes it takes to
deliver it. (How do
they do it?) Finish our
fortune cookies and
return to bed to hug
and watch the end of
Pride and Prejudice.
(old movies are great!)
I'm 36, Libra, 5'9",
150lbs, Brn/Grn,
GWM. Moustache,
very handsome. If I'm
your type I like guys
that are my size or
bigger. You hopefully
can talk with your eyes
and express in words
how you feel about
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pursuit of happiness.
Let's be for one another.
I prefer men who
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Big Chested Dude for
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Any age, race or back-
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GM, 34, intellectual, 5'10", 155, warm, attractive, in-shape, seeks very intelligent, handsome, affectionate, educated GM, 27-40 for sensuality and friendship, theatre, politics, history, theology, depth psychology, tennis, dancing and romance. Versatile in bed. Race unimportant. Outweek Box 1840

J/O BUDDIES
GWM, 40, 5'11", 165#, looking for men who love hot J/O sessions. Exhib. voy. videos. Extra hung and or hairy a+. Photo/Phone to Box 126, 70A Greenwich Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

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cocksucker, 34, really gets down for major dudes hung bigger than me (10'). Looks, age, race unimportant, cock size is. Just be hot and ready for a rootmilkin you won't soon forget. DT assured. Serious calls only. No J/O no fats. Duke (212) 691-3601.

**GAY AND
INTERRACIAL**
GJM, 40, 5'10", 155 lbs., cute, blue eyes and wise desires masculine Black top man, 30 and older. Sensitive and mature to explore who we are. Photo/phone if possible. P.O. Box 20, NYC, NY 10012.

WHO READS ADS?
I don't either, but thought I'd try something different. GWM, successful, seeking best friend and lover. Financial Executive with diverse interests: Gay Men's Chorus, counseling, Co-Chairman of my church's Gay Fellowship. Looking for someone who responds to the person I am: good sense of humor, romantic, interests outside of self, tall and attractive. Write Outweek Box 1714

**HOT BOTTOM
SPANKING**
Very goodlooking Gd Build GWM 34, 6'2", 190lb. Hot Bottom wants Hot Top for safe GR/Spanking/Toys/EN M etc. Especially like big guys my age or older, or hung, or muscular, but like all top guys into tits and my great butt. Write Box 1602 Old Chelsea Stn, New York, NY 10011.

YES DADDY SIR!
Bold Blond-bearded, hairy and very well-hung WGM, (HIV-neg), 33, looking for boyman who loves to give excellent oral service & respect. Learner welcome. You should be romantic, intelligent, GWM, with facial hair, slim or muscular or BB, 5'8", or shorter, 18-30, & in need of a romantic & secure top-man to lovingly show you how to do it. Photo/Phone ans. Outweek Box 1751

LOVE ON THE SIDE
I have a lover but feel hemmed in. Are you in sim situation? I seek discrete GD-looking slim funny smart kind man in 30's for occas roll in the hay. I am handsome, bearded, 38, 5'10", 165lb, literate, successful, horny man. Fantasies run a little rough - boxing a turn-on, jockstraps & sweat. But don't let that scare you. This is new for me too. Discretion, affection & hot wkdys mornings -

that's all I'm after. Take a chance. Outweek Box 1753

400 POUNDS PLUS
GWM, 37, 210lbs, seeks very fat man for good times, dinner, movies, safe sex, possible relationship, for the guy who steals my heart. Reply with explicit photo, letter, tel no., get answer. Write BML, 20053, LTS, NYC, 10011.

ATHLETES ONLY
Handsome, well de-

fined, jock, 29, 5'8", 140lbs, Bl/Gr, Hung-Uncub/6". Seeks other athletes only, 18-35, for erotic workouts. Hard Bodies a must. Send Photo/ Phone/ Letter to Outweek Box 1760

HAIRY, MUSCULAR CHEST

Desperately looking to be stroked. I'm 33, 5'8", 165lbs, bearded with black curly hair. I like travel, books, politics, dining out, theatre, movies, music,

camping, hiking, and candlelight dinners. If you're 35 or younger and have a smooth chest, drop me a line. GL #15F, 496 Hudson, New York, NY 10014. Let's spend a weekend in bed!

STUD SEEKS SEX BUDDY

Nice-guy stud with lover seeks safe sex buddy on the side. I am GWM, 35, 6'1", 190, Bld shdls, masc, muscular, athletic, smooth BB, GQ type

w/out attitude. Am not seeking lover, just lean, masc, musc, sex buddy. Friendly hard-bodied non-kinky guy for uncomplicated sex needed, 22-42 yrs. Race unimportant. Photo pls, will rtrn. Outweek Box 1787

HANDSOME NYU STUDENT

Jock, 25, Italian, slim, athletic, clean-cut, gente yet strong, fun, seeks attractive, submissive, femme-TV-TS to service me off.

Campus after work-outs/classes PO Box 20015, NYC, 10028.

ACTIVIST

Politically progressive GM in 40's, attractive, seeking male 40 to 50. Any race to date. Involved in HIV-related work professionally. Also volunteer. Love music Classical, R&B, Jazz, film. Am published writer and poet. No drugs/alcohol. Write Outweek Box 1777

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THE FANTASY LINE



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CUTE, I'M TOLD, 35 year old pre-op TS, returning to NYC soon, seeks friend/lover, and possible roommate situation. I am tall (6') slender (155lbs) with smooth hairless body. Can be into most scenes as long as they involve me as passive bottom. Honesty a must. If you've considered a relationship with a sincere she-male, don't pass up this opportunity! I am a quality person and need a quality man in my life. Photo appreciated but not necessary. PO Box 1657, Greensboro, NC 27402.

BALLS

Give yours to me to work over for our mutual pleasure. I am a 6'4", 40 year old with a great feel for testicles. Young and curious to experienced-all comers. Robert, P.O. Box 10 NYC, 10014.

KOSHER GWM INTO S/M

Attr, intel GJM seeks similar sgs or cps for talk, Shabbat, movies and maybe more. Me: 5'11", 190, br/hz, 36. Interests include existentialism, masochism, social service, cock-sucking, theatre. You: strong but not selfish. Ltr and phone (foto a +) to PO Box 2520 Times Square Station, NYC, 10108.

TOO SHY IN BARS

To meet people, but too long since my last date. GWM, 5'7", Br/Br, chin-shaven, avg lbs, a tad overweight but fitting it, 45, youthful attitude, Ivy educ, fin secure, prof'l, str-appearing but definitely "out" & not reluctant to enjoy a man's company in public. On good terms w/ ex-wife & awesome 12-yr-old daughter. Diverse interests, open to new experiences & ideas. Work midtown, live Lower 5th Avenue. Seeking unattached GWM 30-50, fin stable, prof'l w/strong mind, just enough maturity to avoid self-centered attitude. Interested in romantic dates, friendship, poss rel. Smoking & moderate drinking ok. (I do both) but no drugs. Write Out Week Box 1799.

SOMEWHAT NEW TO NYC

GWM, 26. Boyishly handsome gym queen, w ho is TIRED of: closeted gay for sex only fags; fashion victims; meeting tops; clones of all types; tall queens; eurotrash; overly politicized ACT-UP queers; East Village Black Cult; Actor...; being too cool to chat; XTC love; accessorizing; name-droppers; only House, Disco, New Wave; morning after "Lovers"; going out to be seen; and most of all Charlies. Send note and photo to TIRED, PO Box 1027, NYC 10011.

GAY COUPLE IN EAST

Village (26-35) seek 3rd or other couples for fun in bed and out. We enjoy videos, B'way, and our neighborhood. Send photo and letter and phone. Come on, we know you'd like to try a threesome or foursome. We sure would! Outweek Box 1790.

PWA ACTIVE + VITAL

GWM, 37, 5'11", 163lbs, widow of six months after 8yr. Relationship. Looking to get back into life/love/lust. Full -

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PAGE 96**



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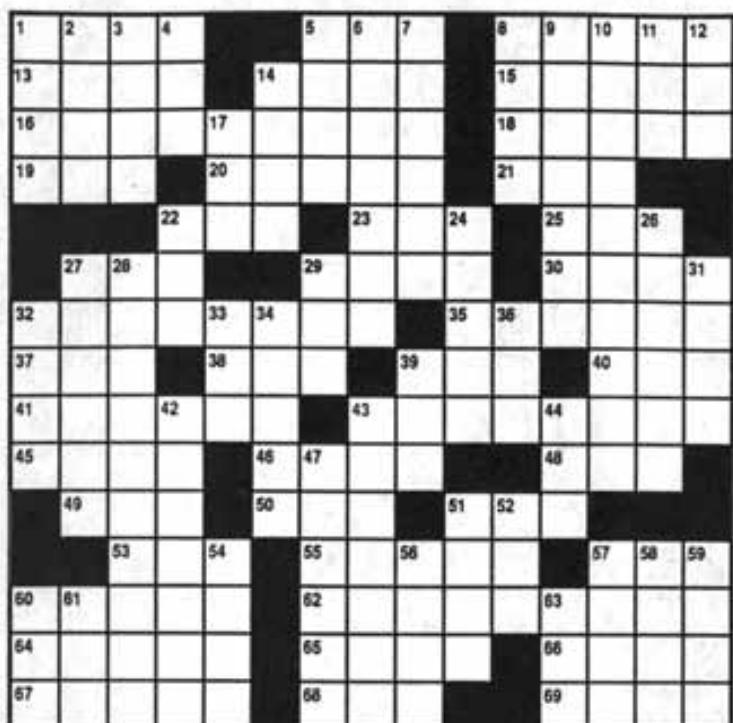
550HARD



Watch Your Mouth

by Phil Greco

Edited by Gabriel Rotello



SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S OUTWEEK ON SALE MONDAY

ACROSS

- Me Blondie hit
- Crude amt.
- Command
- Hodgepodge
- Poet Teasdale
- of prey
- BURIED MAIZE?
- Soul*
- Mauna
- Challah, e.g.
- Vegas
- Dallesandro
- Processes: suffix
- Village bar
- Eastern ruler
- To be, to Allegret
- Pain
- GET FIRED REPEATEDLY?
- Portion of bacon
- Lorca cheer
- Royal ball
- Be ill
- Baba
- Scorpio
- HALF-BAKE A GAINER?
- Composer Rorem's
- Starting (2 wds.)
- "A Chorus Line" show-stopper
- Beetle
- New: comb. form
- Johnny
- Strike
- Slow-moving gastropod
- Daddy sheep
- PALEONTOLOGIST?
- GERMAN NIXES MORE THAN FIVE CUPS?
- "Mio"
- Moon Zappa
- May Oliver
- WRITING INSTRUMENT EXISTS?
- Actor Marshall's
- Ardor
- Prepare to fire
- Succulent

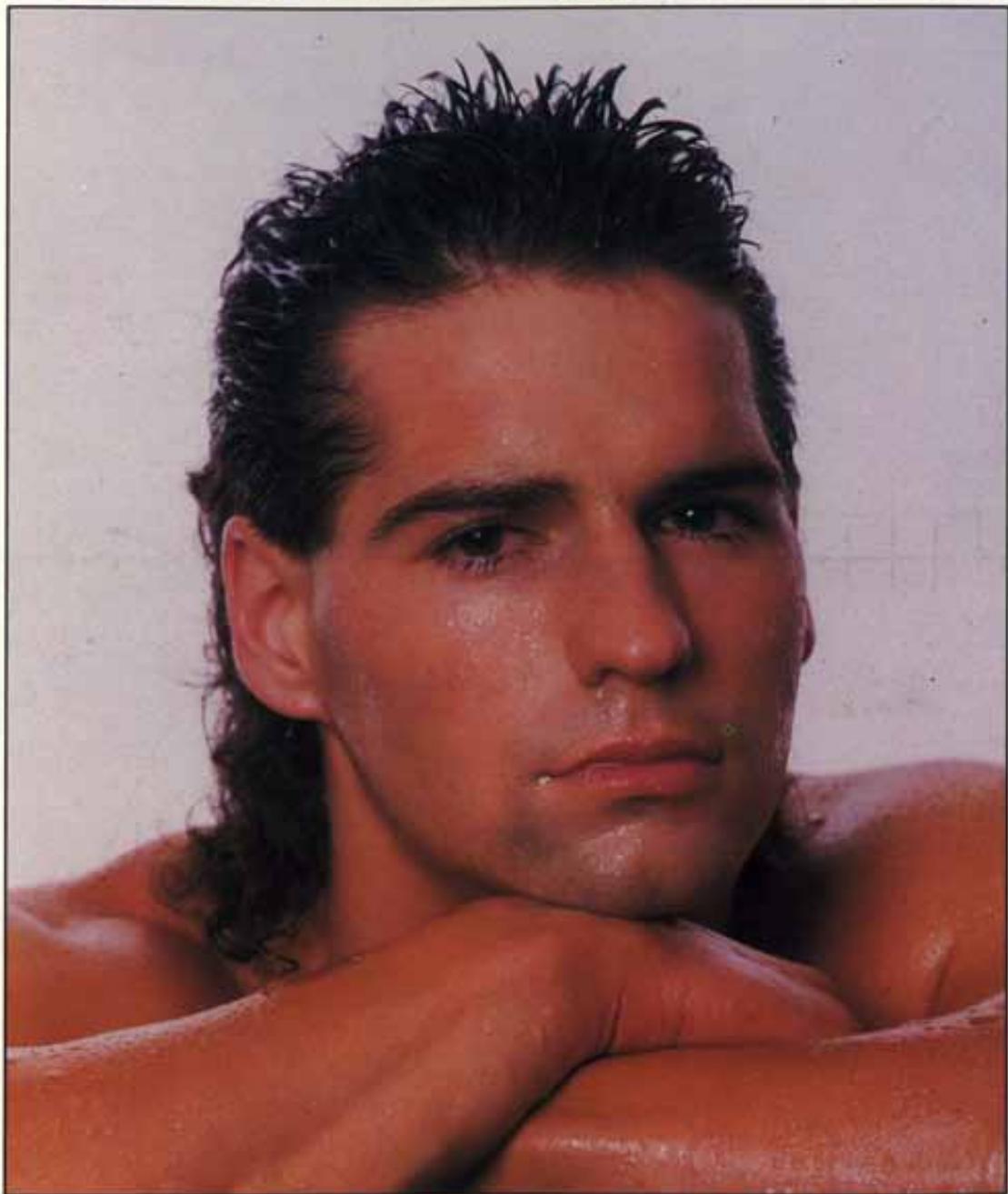
DOWN

- Pasolini's change
- Chaney or Nol
- Bundle
- Mammaries
- Publication of 44 Down
- Anc. Greek coin
- Tebaldi and Scotto
- MEADOW BONDAGE GEAR?
- Escape (abbr.)
- Route (abbr.)
- Angry
- Cable sta.
- Chin location
- Letter embellishment
- Table
- United
- TAKES TITANIC TO BOTTOM?
- * Tide
- Lake
- A Boy Was*
- King or Hinson
- Farfisa
- Kinsey, to friends
- Ariadne Naxos
- Negev native
- Not June-ing or spooning
- See 7 Down
- Actor Hayakawa
- Director Martin
- TV's Tarzan
- Abbr. with Bush or Gorby
- Nasty old alliance
- The White Horse
- Harding and Miller
- Is Murder: The Smiths
- "til you drop"
- Full of: suffix
- Pince-

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

PENA	PETER	ORGY
ACES	LAINE	LEIS
THEHEIRESS	GENE	
SOD	LAP	ITSAFAR
	FIN	GAA
APLACE	INTHE	SUN
ANDA	YEN	ELAPSE
JINX	LAM	TOUT
ATTEST	NAG	OOURS
RAINTREE	COUNTY	
	OUI	ASS
BALLAST	ALE	TEA
ASIA	THEMIS	FITS
DEFY	EERIE	EROS
EATS	DRESS	BENT

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